



servizio di Enrico Signori

Il cielo, come ha rivelato il nostro giornale nei giorni scorsi, sta diventando sempre più «militare», sempre più «riserva», per missili, aerei da guerra e apparecchiature misteriose. Si discute ancora se la tragedia del DC9 precipitato presso Ustica non sia stata causata da una collisione con un apparecchio militare. E riprendono intanto gli avvistamenti di UFO sul nostro paese. Forse non è un caso. Ecco le prove che, almeno nella maggior parte dei casi...

CONTINUANO AD AVVI-STARLI in quello che ormai è noto come il «triangolo del mistero»: quello compreso tra Ascoli Piceno, Pescara e il mare Adriatico antistante la costa marchigiana e abruzzese. Rossi, verdi, a forma di sigaro, di sonda, di piatto, di anello. Sbucano dall'acqua. Appaiono e scompaiono nel cielo silenziosi, ma a velocità sempre più supersoniche. Spesso infatti spuntano come razzi incandescenti. E forse uccidono.

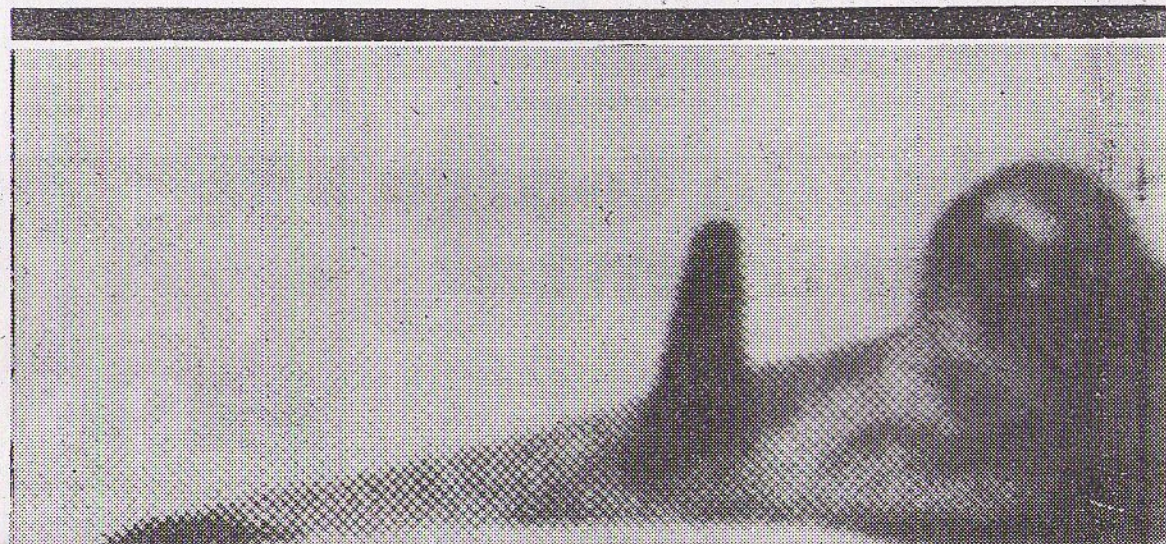
Che il DC-9 dell'Itavia finito in fondo al mare con 81 persone al largo di Ustica nella notte di venerdì 27 giugno sia stato abbattuto da un misterioso «missile» è un'ipotesi che si fa ora sempre più concreta. La stessa commissione governativa che indaga sulla tragedia ha ammesso di «non poter escludere nessuna ipotesi». Dunque: scontro in cielo.

Ma di che cosa? Extraterrestri? Armi del futuro? In Italia si continua a chiamarli UFO, dall'inglese «Unidentified Flying Object». «Oggetti volanti non identificati».

E' escluso ormai da molti scienziati, astronomi e fisici di tutto il mondo che si tratti di allucinazione collettiva o di inspiegabili fenomeni elettrici. Le sue precise caratteristiche e modalità di manifestazione non possono farci escludere l'ipotesi che ci si trovi invece di fronte a ordigni guidati da intelligenze coscienti.

Troppo spesso, infatti, i cosiddetti UFO hanno mostrato di possedere un controllo intelligente, programmato, eludendo abilmente la caccia di aerei militari che, nei cieli di tutto il mondo, li hanno sovente intercettati. Segnalati spesso dai radar, più volte direttamente avvistati da osservatori

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Martedì 21 ottobre 1980

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ACCORDO SEGRETO TRA USA E URSS

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qualificati, militari e civili, i misteriosi ordigni hanno dimostrato di possedere caratteristiche di costruzione aerodinamica fino a oggi sconosciute: hanno la possibilità di spostarsi a quote e accelerazioni proibitive e sono in grado di interferire nelle comunicazioni e nel funzionamento dei più sofisticati apparecchi elettronici.

Ma cosa sono in realtà i «dischi volanti»? Satelliti-killer? Missili segreti che assicurerebbero alla potenza che li costruisce, una volta armati, il virtuale dominio del mondo? Chi li controlla? Una cosa comunque è certa: più che perdersi in teorie sulla genesi degli UFO o fantasticare su quanti occhi e braccia hanno i marziani, molti studiosi oggi pensano ad un'origine più «terrestre» di questi misteriosi oggetti.

IL PRIMO a sostenere in Italia che gli UFO potevano essere la copertura per la ricerca, la prova e l'operatività di oggetti militari volanti (UFO) e marini (USO), è stato Marcello Coppetti, giornalista e studioso di fenomeni ufologici di prestigio europeo. Nel suo ultimo libro, «UFO: arma segreta», Coppetti ha rivelato infatti che la stragrande maggioranza di UFO è da attribuirsi all'invio nel cielo e nel mare da parte delle due superpotenze (USA e URSS) ma anche di altri cinque Paesi compreso il nostro, di veicoli pilotati a distanza. Un'ipotesi suggestiva fino a ieri. Oggi comunque non è più così.

Le foto, alcune scattate dallo stesso Coppetti, che pubblichiamo in esclusiva, sono la conferma che i misteriosi «dischi volanti» non sono altro che sofisticati apparecchi spia. Quale la loro natura? E soprattutto quale il loro impiego? Lo spiega lo stesso Coppetti:

L'andamento del fenomeno UFO, quello contemporaneo che va dal 1943 ad oggi, è fortemente legato agli avvenimenti storici che hanno caratterizzato questo periodo sia sotto l'aspetto scientifico che militare e politico. Per cui è sotto questo profilo che ho studiato il fenomeno a partire dal 1956, quando feci i miei primi studi sugli UFO avvicinando diversi scienziati italiani ed europei. E' evidente che una analisi del

genere non poteva che ricondurmi ad una natura terrestre del fenomeno stesso.

Un osservatore attento ed obiettivo non può, infatti, escludere le molteplici e non occasionali connessioni tra le vicende avvenute sulla terra a partire dall'ultimo periodo della seconda guerra mondiale.

Da allora le superpotenze, i blocchi NATO e i Paesi sottoposti alle cosiddette sfere di influenza occidentale e orientale hanno capito che una nuova guerra mondiale condurrebbe il mondo alla rovina. Perciò la guerra è impossibile e quindi la pace inevitabile. Ma questo equilibrio è basato sulla continua osservanza dello sviluppo bellico dell'avversario e al mantenimento degli accordi.

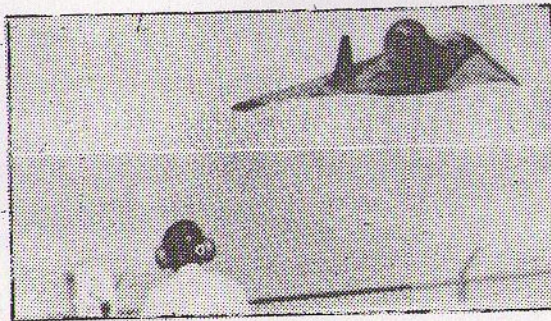
Il presidente Eisenhower aveva tentato di allacciare l'URSS in un accordo chiamato «operazione cieli aperti» che prevedeva la regolarizzazione dello spionaggio aereo e marino dei rispettivi Paesi e di quelli nei due blocchi. Mosca vi si oppose. Tuttavia Mosca acconsentì ad un accordo segreto, denominato qualche anno dopo «Misure per diminuire il pericolo dello scatenamento della guerra atomica».

Esso prevede che even-

e diano luogo ad una serie di informazioni telefoniche per non scambiarli per missili nucleari. Per evitare un conflitto mondiale. Tali oggetti volanti non identificati altro non erano e sono che gli «RPV» (oggetti pilotati a distanza) inventati e realizzati per lo spionaggio fotografico, televisivo ed elettronico (ed anche il controspionaggio) allo scopo di accertare che le due superpotenze non varchino i limiti stabiliti dai rispettivi accordi.

Tutto questo avviene nei nostri cieli. Non credo quindi alla natura extraterrestre del fenomeno UFO, mentre ritengo possibile l'esistenza di civiltà extraterrestri. Chi ci crede afferma che le modalità delle apparizioni (comportamento: accelerazioni rapidissime; manovre compiute nel più assoluto silenzio; traiettorie presumibilmente intelligenti; movimenti del tipo «foglia morta»; evoluzioni del tutto inusitate come virate ad angolo retto in piena velocità) fanno pensare ad oggetti costruiti da una civiltà extraterrestre perché più intelligente e più evoluta di quella terrestre.

Noi, che siamo meno intelligenti e meno evoluti, tutte le volte che riusciamo a raggiungere un corpo nello spazio (Luna, Marte, ecc.) lasciamo un segno della presenza terrestre. Come mai gli extraterrestri, che sarebbero più intelligenti ed evoluti di noi da oltre 37 anni scorrazzano nell'atmosfera terrestre sulla terra e nei mari e non



Una nave spaziale?

Un classico UFO a triangolo. Quanti extraterrestri ci staranno sotto quella cupola trasparente? Nessuno. L'apparecchio, come si vede nell'altra foto è lungo 2,29 metri e pesa 75 chili: è un mini RPV, cioè un oggetto pilotato a distanza, e serve da spia. E un vero e proprio robot 007. Si chiama «Model 262» è costruito dalla Teledyne Ryan, una società americana, che nel '77 ha firmato contratti per un milione di dollari per questo apparecchio. E' un modello «a perdere»: finita la missione precipita in mare (viene usato dalla marina) dove una sostanza chimica lo distrugge immediatamente. Quanti di questi sono stati scambiati per «dischi

L'OCCHIO 21 ottobre 1980

Immediatamente. Quanti di questi sono stati scambiati per «dischi volanti»?

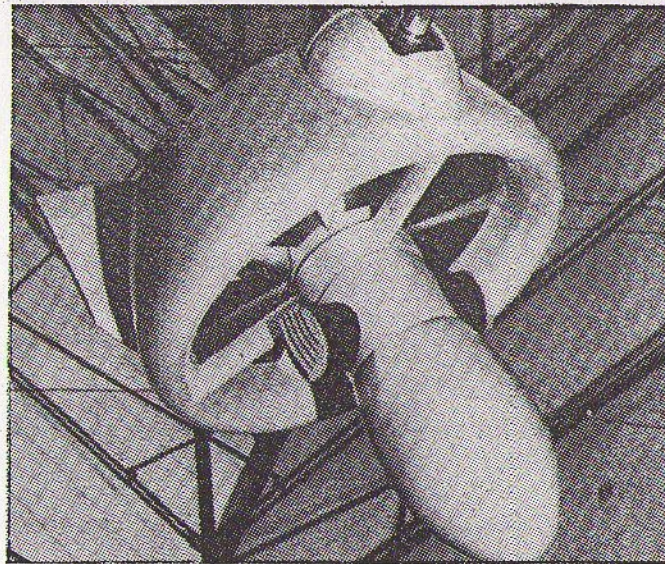
Esso prevede che eventuali oggetti volanti (chiaro l'allusione agli UFO) non identificati avvistati nei rispettivi cieli dessero

no nell'atmosfera terrestre sulla terra e nei mari e non lasciano nessun segno?

Marcello Coppetti

La spia del cielo

Un altro UFO? No, è un'altra spia del cielo, di fabbricazione inglese. Si chiama appunto «Skyspy». E' alto un metro e 37. Il suo comportamento in cielo può far pensare sicuramente a un UFO: decolla verticalmente, può stare in qualsiasi posizione, può scendere a «foglia morta» e può compiere virate e accelerazioni che nessun uomo, se fosse a bordo potrebbe sopportare. Di questo apparecchio ci sono modelli «a perdere» o anche modelli che possono rientrare alla base di partenza, come piccoli viaggiatori.



fenomeni e tutti i loro eventuali cambiamenti durante le varie fasi dell'avvistamento, riportando infine i particolari nel disegno al n. 19.

22) Secondo voi quanto era grande l'oggetto?

23) Di quante volte l'oggetto appariva più piccolo o più grosso della luna piena o del sole o di una moneta da cinque lire tenuta tra le dita con il braccio teso in avanti verso il cielo? Appariva forse della stessa grandezza di una stella? Se la grandezza apparente dell'oggetto variava durante l'avvistamento indicate quando e come variava.

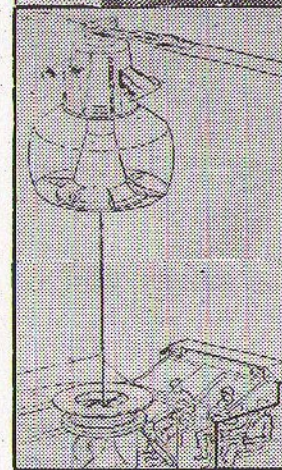
24) Avete potuto fotografare (o cinematografare) l'oggetto? In caso af-

fermativo sarebbe utile poter esaminare le negative e conoscere il tipo di macchina usata e la lunghezza focale del suo obiettivo, oltre all'apertura del diaframma, la durata di esposizione e il tipo di pellicola utilizzati.

25) Altre persone, oltre a voi, hanno visto l'oggetto? In caso affermativo fornite le loro generalità e indirizzi o almeno indicate quante erano.

26) Avete visto oggetti volanti non identificati in altre occasioni? In caso affermativo indicate in che data ciò è avvenuto e in che luogo vi trovavate; riportate poi in un questionario a parte tutto ciò che vi ricordate in proposito.

L'astronave... col filo



Contro il cielo chiaro non è visibile il cavo che collega questo strano «elicottero» a un camion. Questo è un «Drone», un apparecchio che esiste già dalla fine della guerra mondiale; serve per ricognizione, controllo del tiro e la sorveglianza di emissioni radio. Questo della foto è della società Dornier, un diametro di 1,05 metri, pesa 280 chili. Cosa penserebbe, vedendo questo apparecchio, della gente che si trovasse al di là degli alberi? A un UFO.

VICINATO?

15) Descrivete tutti gli spostamenti dell'oggetto (da che parte andava, con che velocità si muoveva, se saliva o scendeva, se passava davanti o dietro una nuvola o montagna o altro punto di riferimento fisso o mobile, se a un dato momento accelerava o rallentava o si fermava, se ruotava su se stesso e quante rotazioni faceva in ogni minuto ecc.). Indicate anche quanto tempo impiegava in ciascuna delle operazioni descritte; a questo scopo controllate con un orologio i tempi indicati, immaginandovi di essere di nuovo presenti al fatto.

16) Fate uno schizzo del paesaggio e tracciate mediante una linea tratteggiata il percorso dell'oggetto nel cielo durante tutto l'avvistamento, aggiungendo ogni tanto su tale linea una freccia secondo il senso del movimento dell'oggetto e tutte le indicazioni utili ad individuare le varie fasi dell'avvistamento da voi descritte al n. 15).

17) L'oggetto produceva rumore? In caso affermativo precisate di che tipo era, e in che momento si sentiva e se variava durante l'avvistamento.

18) L'oggetto era più luminoso del

cielo? In caso affermativo indicate se aveva la luminosità di una stella (grande, media, piccola) oppure di un faro di un'automobile visto di fronte e a una certa distanza (per es. un chilometro, cento metri ecc.) oppure se tale luminosità era accecante. Se la luminosità dell'oggetto non rimaneva costante col passare del tempo ma aumentava o diminuiva, precisate in quale momento essa cambiava e, nel caso in cui i cambiamenti si ripetevano con regolarità indicate quante volte in un minuto ciò avveniva.

19) Che forma aveva l'oggetto? A che cosa poteva somigliare? Fate anche possibilmente un disegno dell'oggetto, aggiungendo, vicino, una freccia per far capire quale era la parte anteriore dell'oggetto mentre si muoveva.

20) Di che colore era l'oggetto? (indicate anche se il colore variava durante l'avvistamento, in che momento ciò si verificava e, nel caso in cui la variazione di colore si ripeteva con regolarità, precisate quante volte in un minuto ciò avveniva).

21) I contorni dell'oggetto si vedevano bene o erano un po' confusi? Uscivano dall'oggetto fiamme, vapori o fumi oppure l'oggetto appariva circondato da un alone luminoso? Indicate la forma e il colore di tali

HISTORIA DE UNA CONSPIRACIÓN LA CIA

por José Guijarro
ilustración Toni Mena

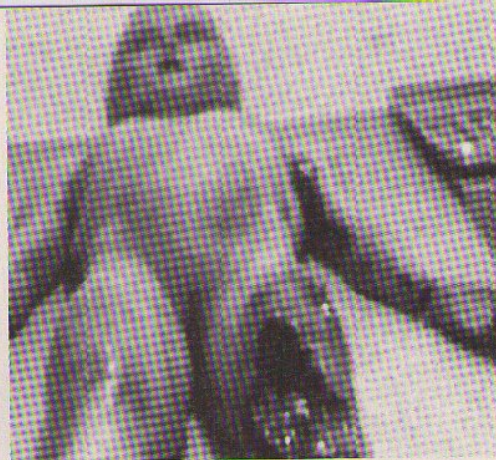
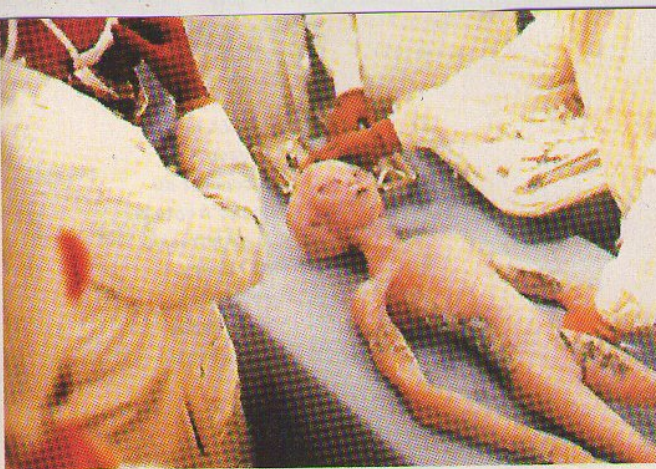
En la Agencia Central de Inteligencia (CIA) continúan las contradicciones y los contrasentidos. Recientemente se han dado a conocer varios informes secretos en los que se asegura que los platillos volantes observados en los Estados Unidos durante los años 50 eran naves de fabricación humana en fase de experimentación. ¿Por qué han esperado hasta hoy para anunciarlo? ¿Cuál es el verdadero interés de la CIA en los ovnis y contra los ovnis? ¿Es cierto que Estados Unidos recuperó en aquellos años una nave extraterrestre en Roswell? En el año 1947, la primera gran oleada de ovnis de este siglo acaparaba la atención de los norteamericanos y del mundo entero, incluidas las Fuerzas Aéreas norteamericanas, que no dudaron en restringir el acceso a la información sobre los

ovnis y aplicarle el calificativo de "Alto Secreto". ¿Por qué? Cincuenta años más tarde la Agencia Central de Inteligencia, conocida como la CIA, ha hecho público un informe en el que se esconde la respuesta. Su autor, el historiador Gerald K. Haines, asegura a lo largo de catorce páginas que los platillos volantes observados en Estados Unidos durante la década de los años 50 y 60 escondían misiones de aviones espía. La noticia ha levantado una gran polémica e indignación dentro y fuera de los organismos oficiales. El General de Brigada Ronald Scoyner declaró a la prensa que «Aunque no conozco las bases específicas de las afirmaciones de Haines, si su estudio es cierto este intento de ocultar los vuelos espía al público norteamericano es quizá el mayor programa de mentiras oficiales sobre avistamientos nunca antes documentados». Las declaraciones de este general no hacen sino confirmar las estadísticas. Según

Un ochenta por ciento de los norteamericanos cree que su gobierno miente sobre los casos de avistamiento de ovnis y que oculta datos a la opinión pública.

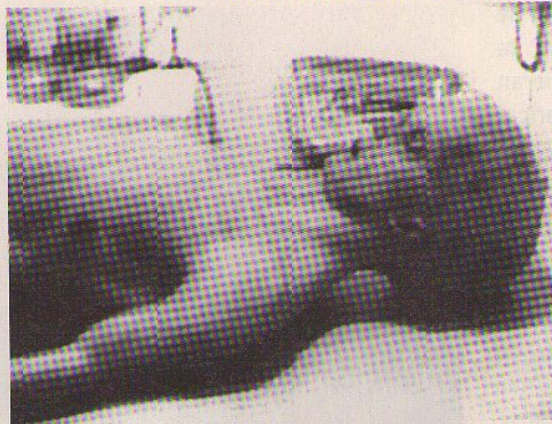
Y LOS OVNIS





En 1947 un platillo volante se estrelló en Nuevo México. Los restos de sus ocupantes fueron analizados en la base Ford Knox de Texas y éstas son las imágenes del caso.

un objeto. El suceso fue anunciado, incluso, por el oficial de relaciones públicas de la base, el teniente Walter Haut, el 8 de julio de 1947—la materia OVNI, en esas fechas, todavía no era secreta—merced a un comunicado de prensa que se divulgó de un extremo a otro del país a través de los periódicos. Ante la gran trascendencia de los hechos, los mandos superiores del teniente Haut, principalmente el Teniente general Haut Vandenberg y el General de brigada Roger M. Ramey, quienes lamentaron la celeridad



Mogul. El proyecto nació para comprobar las teorías de un físico llamado Maurice Ewing, quien creía que en la atmósfera podía escucharse el sonido de las explosiones nucleares a miles de kilómetros, tal como sucede en el agua de los océanos. El informe Weaver dejaba claro que el objeto estrellado en Roswell no podía ser un ingenio tecnológico y, además, aseguraba que nunca habían recuperado ser alguno

UN MUTISMO GENERALIZADO

dad con la que el Coronel Blanchard autorizó la difusión de la nota de prensa, negaron la versión facilitada por el 509 Grupo de Bombarderos y sugirieron la hipótesis del globo meteorológico. Durante años, los ufólogos han supuesto que esta versión no era sino la tapadera, el encubrimiento, de la verdadera historia del Incidente Roswell. Tapadera que ha variado con el paso del tiempo.

UNA ESPESA CORTINA DE SILENCIO

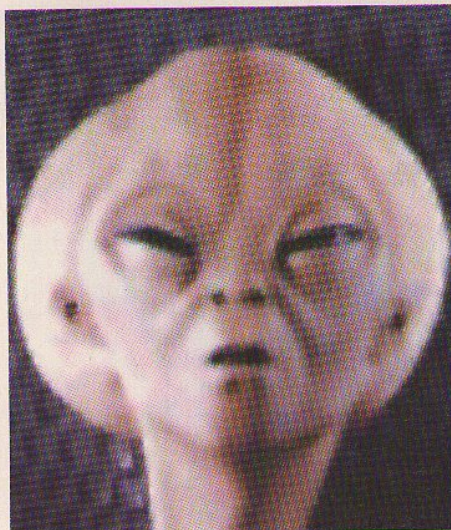
La administración norteamericana ha mantenido todos estos años un mutismo total acerca del incidente, hasta que la presión popular y, cómo no, la ley de secretos oficiales —que obliga, una vez transcurrido cierto tiempo, a que los documentos secretos bajen de nivel de confidencialidad— motivó una reacción por parte del Alto Mando. El 14 de enero de 1994, un artículo del Washington Post anunciaba que el congresista Steven Schiff, de Albuquerque, Nuevo México, había solicitado al GAO (General Accounting Office) información sobre el Incidente Roswell. Parecía que, casi cincuenta años después la inteligencia norteamericana iba a tener que dar explicaciones. El Departamento de Defensa, sólo un mes más

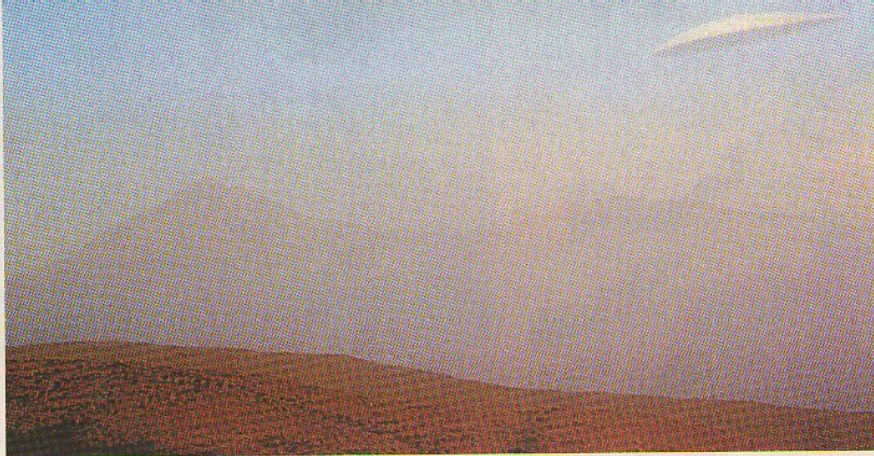
tarde, llevó a cabo una exhaustiva auditoría por diversas agencias para conseguir información sobre los misteriosos acontecimientos ocurridos en esta desértica zona. Los frutos de tan frenética búsqueda fueron reunidos en un informe bautizado con el nombre de Informe Weaver, en atención a su autor, el coronel Richard L. Weaver, director del Programa Especial de Seguridad Oversight. Este informe oficial (librado a la opinión pública en Julio de 1994) reafirmaba la hipótesis del globo meteorológico facilitada por William H. Blanchard y precisaba que este globo se enmarcaba en un proyecto de Alto Secreto con el nombre de Proyecto

junto a los restos del globo. Pues bien: ¿cómo es posible que hoy la Fuerza Aérea se desdiga y admita haber recuperado cuerpos, a pesar de que reconozcan que éstos eran tan sólo muñecos de prueba? ¿Qué se esconde tras el Incidente Roswell para que, 50 años después, nos siga siendo vedada la información?

LA ÚLTIMA MANIPULACIÓN DE LA CIA

En 1953, la CIA recomendó la creación de un grupo de estudio, conocido como Panel Robertsson, fruto de intensas reuniones entre personal de inteligencia y científicos de alto nivel. Éstos, bajo la dirección del asesor científico de la CIA, el doctor Robertsson, llegaron a la conclusión de que los platillos volantes no suponían ninguna amenaza para la seguridad de los Estados Unidos. La comisión, además, recomendaba controlar el fenómeno por todas las implicaciones sociales que podía tener. Les preocupaba, especialmente, la manipulación que la Unión Soviética, en plena guerra fría, pudiera hacer. Circunstancia que queda demostrada cuando Haines, en su reciente informe, señala el temor frente a la penetración de misiles soviéticos camuflados como ovnis. Es más, durante la década



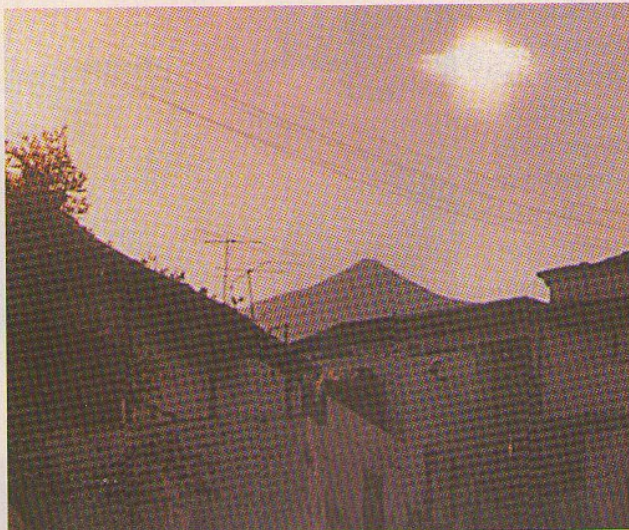


La CIA ha llegado a reconocer su temor frente a la penetración de misiles soviéticos camuflados como ovnis.

da de los 70 y 80, la Agencia Central de Inteligencia consideró la posibilidad de que los soviéticos y el KGB estuvieran usando a los ciudadanos norteamericanos y, en particular, a los grupos OVNI, para conseguir información sobre programas de desarrollo de armas secretas tales, como los aviones Stealth; Haines explicó que los oficiales de la CIA estaban preocupados de que «los soviéticos pudieran infiltrarse en estas organizaciones y establecer un corredor de información» que proporcionara datos sobre aviones clasificados. Debido a este «interés de contrainteligencia» ¿Investigó la CIA a los grupos OVNI civiles en los Estados Unidos?

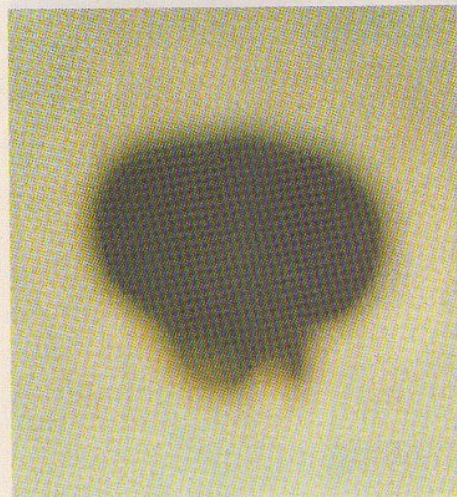
¿Y 50 años después?

Cincuenta años después del incidente de Roswell y los avistamientos de 1947, nos encontramos ante una doble y paradójica actitud: ocultamiento y destrucción de datos - los famosos hombres de negro de los que trataremos en el próximo número de Xanadu y una evidencia que ya no pueden negar los científicos. Los matemáticos, premios Noble a la cabeza con el teórico de la teoría de la causalidad, han calculado las posibilidades concretas - 1,3 sobre un trillón - de vida extraterrestre en las mismas condiciones que la humana (un sistema solar con un planeta en situación espacio temporal igual a la tierra). La cifra puede parecer exagerada pero sólo hay que dividirla por el número de estrellas y ofrece una posibilidad matemática aceptable. La Nasa admite oficialmente la existencia de siete proyectos de investigación sobre vida en otros planetas, mensajes intergalácticos, escucha de sonidos interestelares que pudieran evidenciar vida alienígena, estudios de biología y geoquímica de los cometas (considerados el posible origen de la vida en la tierra)... ¿Son tan diáfanos los proyectos de la Nasa o sus resultados se ocultarán en otros expedientes X?



Aunque Haines no ha querido responder a esta vital cuestión, parece que existen, al menos dos documentos, en los que la CIA recomienda al FBI indagar en las actividades de grupos OVNI privados. ¿Motivaron éstos la leyenda de los Hombres de Negro?

Es muy posible que así sea. Los Hombres de Negro (conocidos también como MIB, en sus siglas del inglés) se dejaron ver durante aquellos años alrededor de los numerosos testigos e investigadores. Siempre vestidos con indumentaria negra, con sombrero y gabardina y con una actitud amenazante para lograr que los implicados guardaran silencio. Un trato muy digno de las agencias de "inteligencia"...



PREGUNTA SIN RESPUESTA

Si la CIA buscaba un golpe de efecto con la publicación del informe sobre la oleada OVNI de los años 50 y 60 no lo ha conseguido. A pesar de que pudieran explicarse los miles de avistamientos del territorio norteamericano ¿qué pasa con los ovnis observados en el resto del mundo? ¿También eran ingenios secretos? Richard Hall, máxi-

mo responsable para la Investigación de los OVNIS, ha señalado que «Decir que todas esas denuncias eran aviones espías es absurdo» Y añadió: «Hay muchos testimonios creíbles de claros y estructurados objetos volando lentamente a ras de suelo. ¿Cómo se explica eso? Este documento -sentenció- es tonto y engañoso». No conviene olvidar que el "objetivo" informe de Haines fue elaborado mientras trabajaba para la CIA por encargo específico de James Woolsey, primer director de la Agencia Central de Inteligencia de la administración Clinton. ¿No busca acaso lavar su imagen? Reconocer la ingerencia de la CIA en proyectos como el Libro Azul -creado en 1966 para tranquilizar a los ciudadanos y ver si los OVNIS constituían una amenaza para la seguridad Nacional-, no ha beneficiado en nada la imagen de una Agencia que se lamenta de la desconfianza de los norteamericanos para con su gobierno. Desconfianza que, a tenor de lo expuesto, tardará en desaparecer, hasta que alguien se decida a contarnos toda la verdad sobre los OVNIS. ✕



Roswell, secreto de Estado. Javier Sierra, Ed. Edaf



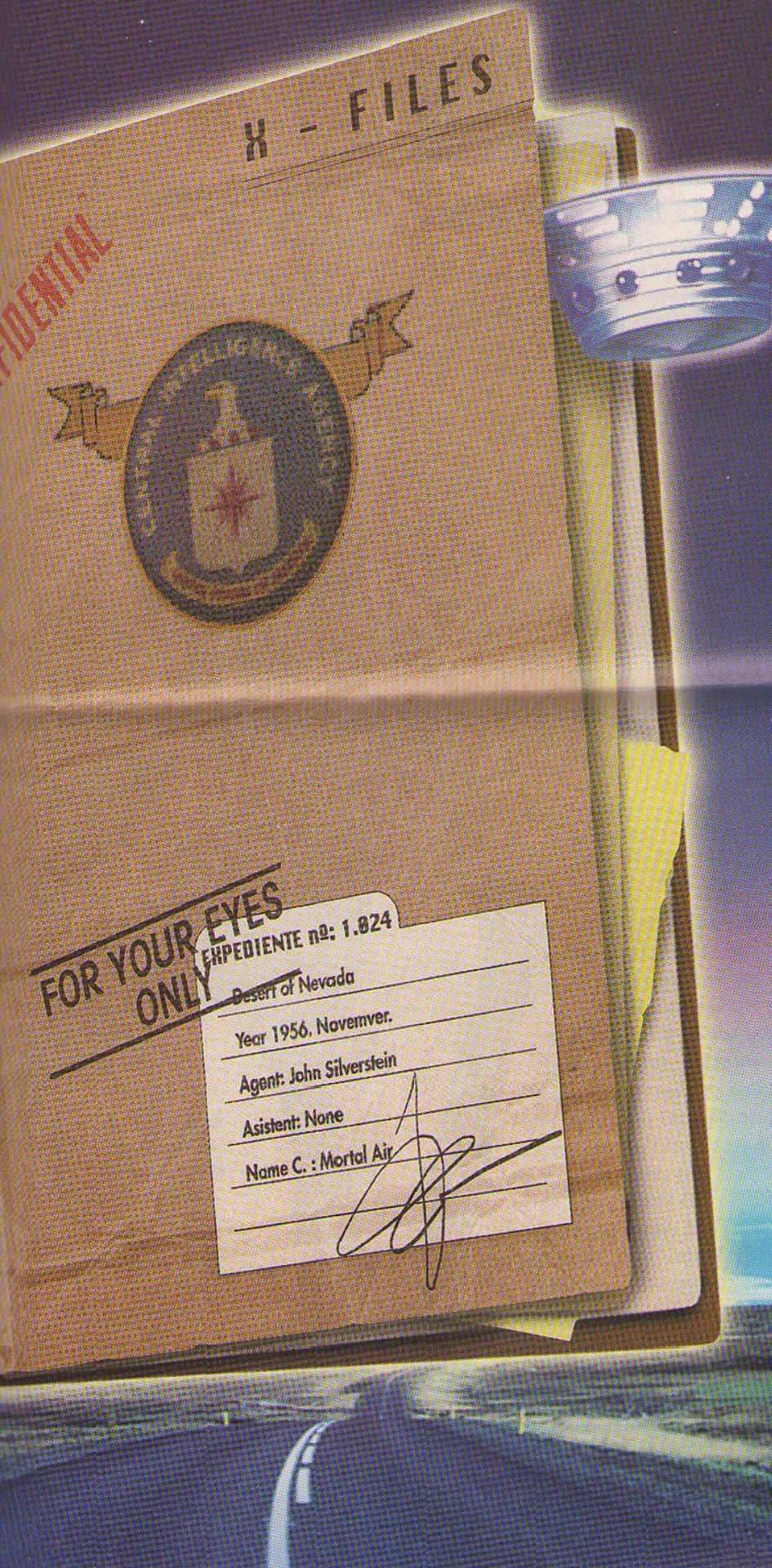
Siguiente tema: ¿Quiénes son los verdaderos hombres de negro?

El denominado 'incidente Roswell' es uno de los expedientes que despiertan más curiosidad e inquietud en Estados Unidos.

El día X del presidente

Una de las primeras acciones rituales de los presidentes al entrar en la Casa Blanca es reclamar el 'dossier' o expediente X sobre los ovnis. Durante la campaña electoral de su marido, Nancy Reagan dijo, más en serio que en broma, en un programa de la NBC, que sería la primera esposa presidencial interesada en llegar al fondo de este tema que siempre la había apasionado. Aunque Nancy siguió con sus aficiones e incluso intentó exorcizar la famosa estancia Lincoln, donde aparece el fantasma del difunto presidente, nunca más se refirió a esta 'broma' televisiva. El día 3 de noviembre de 1992, Bill Clinton entró en la Casa Blanca decidido a echar luz sobre muchas cuestiones de seguridad, papeles de la CIA y, cómo no, las contradictorias versiones sobre las visitas extraterrestres y sobre el incidente Roswell. Se había referido en su campaña indirectamente a estos informes, considerados por muchos un secreto de estado y, por otros, un engaño a la opinión pública sobre la verdad. En la primera mañana de trabajo, el presidente se encontró en la mesa de su despacho con el 'dossier'. Nunca más ha hablado del tema.

una reciente encuesta encargada por la revista "Time", el ochenta por ciento de los norteamericanos está seguro de que su gobierno oculta información sobre las visitas extraterrestres a la Tierra. ¿Estamos ante una nueva manipulación informativa? Durante los años cincuenta y sesenta se produjeron, sólo en el territorio norteamericano, miles de avistamientos OVNI. A pesar la cualificación de muchos testigos, pilotos y personal técnico y de la extrañeza de muchas observaciones, la Fuerza Aérea achacó los fenómenos a cuestiones atmosféricas; cristalizaciones de hielo y conversiones de temperatura. Claro que, según el informe de Hain, explicaciones peregrinas como éstas estaban encaminadas a aplacar el miedo de la población hacia nuestros vi-





¿Se esconde tras los ovnis un intento de mantener en secreto importantes proyectos tecnológicos?

sitantes extraterrestres y, a la vez, mantener en secreto proyectos tecnológicos como los aviones U-2 y SR-71 Blackbird. ¿Qué postura hemos de tomar frente a tales declaraciones? ¿Busca la CIA, como creen muchos investigadores, des-pistar una vez más a la opinión pública? Este nuevo intento de la CIA de reducir los ovnis a una cuestión puramente tecnológica tuvo lugar, curiosamente, sólo un mes después de que la Fuerza Aérea realizara otras sorprendentes declaraciones respecto al denominado Incidente Roswell. Ocurría el 24 de junio, la fecha del cincuentenario de los ovnis. El Coronel John Haynes, con paso firme y sonrisa en los labios, presentó a la prensa un voluminoso informe, titulado "Roswell Report: Case Closed" (Informe Roswell: Caso Cerrado), en el que podía leerse que el Platillo Volante supuestamente estrellado en Roswell, Nuevo México, a mediados de 1947, no era más que un ingenio tecnológico. Los seres recuperados, siempre según la versión del Departamento de Defensa del Pentágono, eran muñecos de prueba lanzados desde 30.000 pies de altura. Las risas de se dejaron notar en la sala.

¿QUÉ SUCEDIÓ EN ROSWELL?

Los escépticos, casi siempre desinformados, han visto en el Incidente Roswell una prolífica industria de las creencias. Pero, a pesar del negocio que constitu-

Más de 300 testigos afirman que algo se está tramando en Texas ¿Mienten todos ellos?

ye para Roswell, pueblo que vio nacer, por ejemplo, a Demi Moor el supuesto estrellamiento de un OVNI, han apareci-

¿Dónde está Roswell?

Roswell parece ahora la disneylandia norteamericana de los ovnis, un lugar turístico recomendado por múltiples agencias de viajes para las familias con niños. "Souvenirs", centro de arte ufológico, museo local,... Este pequeño pueblo del desierto de Nuevo México, productor de queso mozzarella para pizzas y donde nació la actriz Demi Moor, vivió en 1947 una experiencia que lo ha convertido en la estrella mundial de las visitas extraterrestres. El año 1947 había sido un periodo pródigo en visitas de extraterrestres. El granjero Mac Brazel halló unos curiosos restos metálicos en su rancho, y también restos de seres. Sin embargo, todo desapareció en manos de enviados especiales del gobierno y miembros del ejército. Desde entonces, los datos son confusos y la destrucción de pruebas continúa hasta que el físico Stanton Friedman intenta en 1978 reconstruir una trama compleja. Hoy es difícil averiguar que pasó en Roswell, pero sus habitantes han encontrado una mina de oro OVNI.

do, en estos últimos años, más de trescientos testigos que en mayor o menor medida han estado relacionados con el incidente o la recuperación de los restos. Según todos los indicios, el 4 de julio de 1947 un platillo volante se estrelló en un rancho del desierto de Nuevo México, al Sudoeste de los Estados Unidos, muy cerca de la pequeña localidad de Roswell. Sus restos habrían sido transportados, junto a los cuerpos de sus tripulantes, a la base de Ford Knox (en Texas) para su análisis y, desde entonces, un comité de científicos habría estudiado y desarro-

llado tecnología en base a los datos deducidos de la nave extraterrestre. Durante años el ejército negó la existencia misma del suceso, hasta que en la década de los 80 las pesquisas de los investigadores demostraron que allí el Ejército de los Estados Unidos había llevado a cabo maniobras de recuperación de



Se ha asegurado en numerosas ocasiones que los supuestos cuerpos recuperados no eran más que muñecos o maniquís.

Un equipaggio misto: comandante Usa, membri italiani, greci, tedeschi e olandesi

In volo sulla sentinella dei cieli “Attenti a Possible Renegade”

L'Awacs della Nato coordina la protezione aerea

DAL NOSTRO INVIATO
GIAMPAOLO CADALANU

IN VOLO SOPRA L'AQUILA—La riunione dei potenti è solo un puntino colorato al centro del cerchio tratteggiato in rosso che indica sullo sfondo scuro la “No-Fly zone”, la zona interdetta al volo. Attorno, simboli azzurri e verdi si muovono lenti, pulsando sullo schermo elettronico. Le “U” rovesciate indicano i caccia Eurofighter arrivati sui cieli dell'Aquila dalla base di Grosseto. Dietro il quadratino celeste si na-

sconde un solitario Predator, che scruta le colline abruzzesi in silenzio. Visto dall'aereo radar Awacs, lo scenario di protezione del G8 assomiglia a un videogioco un po' antiquato, di quelli senza figurine animate a tre dimensioni. Ma più che effetti speciali, l'occhio elettronico dell'Alleanza atlantica deve garantire una sicurezza a prova di imprevisti: meglio un volo noioso, dicono i tecnici, perché vuol dire che non è successo niente. Anzi, no: «Non esistono missioni noiose, solo missioni tranquille», rettifica

Harald Vellmer, veterano delle guerre nei Balcani e protagonista sull'Awacs del recupero di un pilota Nato abbattuto con il suo F-117 dietro le linee serbe.

Ieri mattina però sembrava che solo una accurata miscela di caffè, adrenalina e concentrazione potesse evitare gli sbadigli sul “Magic 62”, uno dei cinque Boeing E-3A partiti nei giorni scorsi dalla base Awacs di Geilenkirchen, in Germania, e rischierati nella “base avanzata di operazioni” di Trapani. Partenza dalla Sicilia al mattino presto, ar-

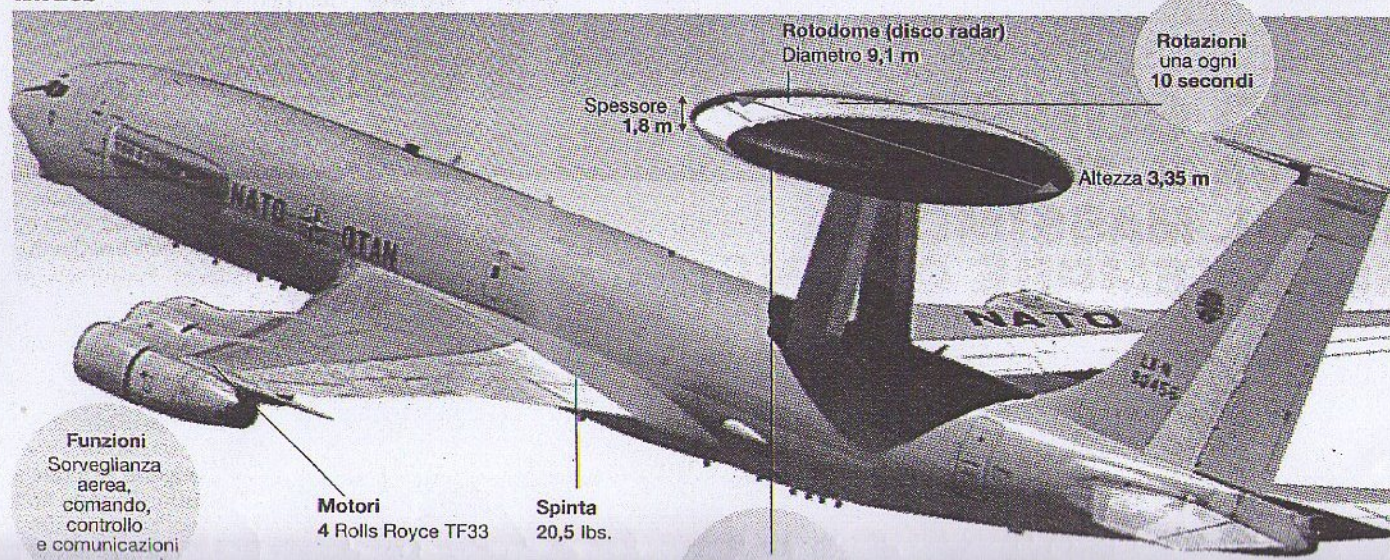
rivo in zona di operazioni poco dopo le 8: l'orbita prescelta non era direttamente sopra L'Aquila, ma un po' più a sud dell'obiettivo da controllare. L'immenso radar montato sopra la struttura del Boeing 707, quello che gli avieri più irrispettosi hanno ribattezzato il “Frisbee”, garantiva la copertura accurata di tutta l'Italia centrale. L'aereo sentinella, come lo chiamano gli americani, guardava dall'alto il pattugliamento dei cacciabombardieri di Grosseto e di Cervia, pronto a correggerne la rotta o a dirigerli

verso i punti di eventuali crisi. Ogni traccia rilevata aveva la sua carta d'identità elettronica, il traffico civile fluiva sereno, lontano dalla zona del vertice.

«È vero, sembra tutto facile, ma è solo frutto della preparazione accurata», dice il comandante americano Matt Terpstra, sottolineando la sua soddisfazione a guidare un equipaggio misto di tante nazioni. Il contingente Awacs è il primo riuscitissimo esperimento di integrazione fra militari Nato di provenienza molto diversa, con gli italiani in un ruolo di prima fila, sia a Trapani che nella base madre, a pochi chilometri da Colonia. L'impressione che il “melting pot” con le stellette sia quasi un miracolo si conferma a chi ascolta le comunicazioni in cuffia: sono avvertimenti e ordini che si intersecano in un linguaggio di acronimi e riferimenti tecnici, parlato in un inglese ricco di inflessioni romane, napoletane, greche, tedesche, olandesi e norvegesi che di primo acchito atterrisce anche i madrelingua.

Per l'equipaggio multinazionale del “Magic 62” la tranquillità però svanisce all'improvviso poco dopo mezzogiorno: c'è una traccia non identificata che si muove all'interno della zona di non volo. La tensione sale quando il sistema radar terrestre pronuncia la

Awacs



Funzioni
Sorveglianza
aerea,
comando,
controllo
e comunicazioni

Motori
4 Rolls Royce TF33

Spinta
20,5 lbs.

Sorveglianza
aerea,
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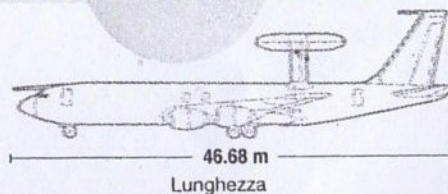
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**Copertura
Radar**
Più di 312 km

Dimensioni

Altezza 12.70 m



■ **Velocità**
Più di 800 km/h

■ **Altitudine operativa**
sopra i 9150 m

■ **Peso Massimo al decollo**
147.429 kg

■ **Capacità serbatoio**
89.610 lt

■ **Autonomia**
più di 10 ore

Equipaggio

Di volo

- 2 piloti
- 1 Navigatore
- 1 Operatore di bordo

Operatori di sistema

- 1 Direttore Tattico
- 1 Coordinatore Sistemi d'Arma
- 2 Controllori d'Arma
- 1 Controllori di Sorveglianza
- 3 Operatori di Sorveglianza
- 1 Operatore addetto alle comunicazioni
- 1 Tecnico addetto alle comunicazioni
- 1 Tecnico Radar
- 1 Tecnico Computer

...improvviso poco dopo mezzogiorno: c'è una traccia non identificata che si muove all'interno della zona di non volo. La tensione sale quando il sistema radar terrestre pronuncia la parola maledetta, quella che rap-

Missione tranquilla: un solo momento di tensione, ma era un elicottero della protezione civile

presenta l'incubo di tutti: «Possibile Renegade». È la procedura nata dopo l'11 settembre per indicare velivoli civili utilizzati come arma per scopi di terrorismo. Gli operatori alle consolle hanno appena il tempo di chiedersi che cosa diavolo sia la traccia sconosciuta, che subito le appare a fianco quella già identificata di un elicottero militare armato HH3F, incaricato delle intercettazioni sulle minacce a bassa velocità. È tutto a posto: il velivolo non identificato è un elicottero bianco, forse della Protezione civile, partito dallo scalo aquilano di Preturo con i sistemi di identificazione elettronica spenti. Per di più si sta allontanando dalla zona interdetta. Sul "Magic 62" l'equipaggio può tirare un sospiro di sollievo. C'è appena il tempo di pochi altri giri sull'orbita "Charlie", prima di lasciare il campo ai cugini francesi, nome in codice, inevitabilmente, Cyrano. Per i leader del pianeta minacce dal cielo non ce ne sono, e il turno di sorveglianza può finire senza scosse. Gli uomini del "Magic" tornano mille chilometri più a sud. Oggi si ricomincia.

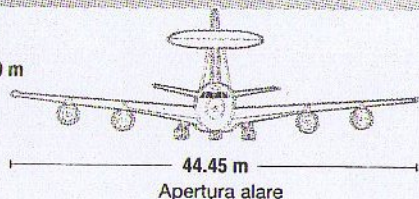
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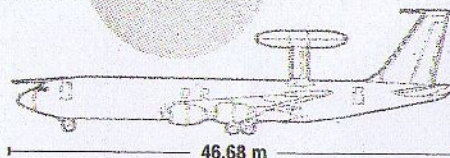
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Altezza 12.70 m



Apertura alare

**Copertura
Radar**
Più di 312 km



Lunghezza

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cronache del mistero

a cura di Luciano Gianfranceschi



UFO: L'IPOTESI TERRESTRE

Molte volte è stata avanzata «l'ipotesi terrestre» degli Ufo, cioè che i dischi volanti siano opera di una nazione del nostro pianeta. Tra i più oltranzisti sostenitori di questa teoria va ricordato il maggiore Renato Vesco, esperto di tecnica aeronautica e autore di vari libri sull'argomento, tra cui il notevole «Velivoli del mistero».

Gli Ufo - egli sostiene - sono dischi volanti costruiti con tecniche d'avanguardia dagli inglesi in Canada, elaborando i piani delle V-2 carpi ai tedeschi alla fine della Seconda Guerra Mondiale.

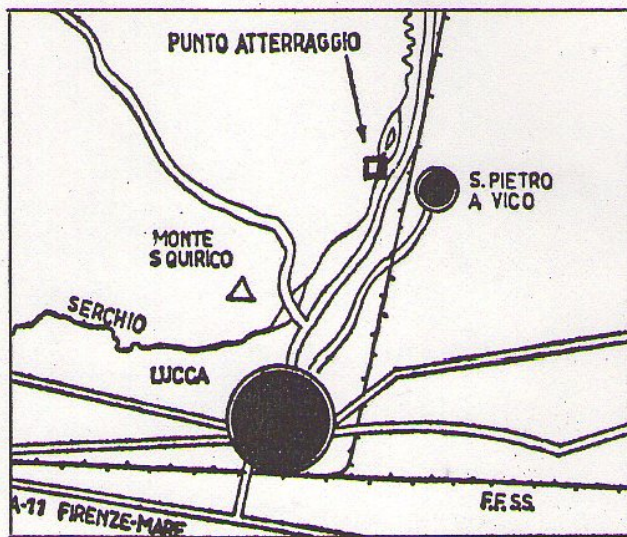
E a suo favore Renato Vesco cita l'ordigno radio-comandato «Feuerball» che disturbava i radar degli aerei avversari, e di giorno si presentava come un disco ruotante su se stesso, mentre di notte sembrava un globo luminoso. Non si tratterebbe in effetti, che dei caccia-fantasma avvistati dagli americani nel cielo d'Europa e scomparsi proprio con la fine della guerra.

Un'altra arma tedesca, il «Kugelblitz» era un aereo intercettatore che sparava micidiali raffiche gassose di grisou sintetico. Quest'ordigno, impiegato una sola volta, avrebbe distrutto un'intera squadriglia di aerei americani.

Dallo studio congiunto di queste due armi - i cui piani originali non sono mai stati ritrovati - avrebbero avuto origine gli attuali dischi volanti.

La maggior parte degli ufologi avanza l'obiezione che è difficile mantenere per un trentennio un se-

“ Tra le tante teorie sui dischi volanti c'è anche quella che li vuole di origine terrestre - Ne è autore il maggiore Renato Vesco, un profondo conoscitore di tecnica aeronautica - E un misterioso fatto, accaduto nel 1952 in Lucchesia, sembrerebbe dargli ragione, anche se non tutti gli ufologi sono d'accordo... ”



La cartina della Lucchesia, ove si svolse il fatto narrato nell'articolo. Una precisa ricostruzione è stata possibile grazie al giovane nipote del protagonista, Maurizio Rossi

greto del genere. Ma siccome nessuna teoria sui dischi volanti è (per ora) perfetta, prendiamo in esame anche questa.

UN UFO IN AVARIA

Quanto avvenuto nell'estate 1952 in Lucchesia sembrerebbe proprio dar ragione a Renato Vesco. Un uomo, Carlo Rossi, di 53 anni, abitante a San Pietro a Vico, si presentò

alla Procura della Repubblica per denunciare un fatto straordinario che aveva messo in pericolo la sua vita. Parlando con un'ansia malcelata, come chi è appena scampato ad una brutta avventura, raccontò che la notte tra il 24 e il 25 luglio percorreva il viottolo che portava alla sua rete a «bilancia» sul Serchio. D'improvviso la sua attenzione fu attratta

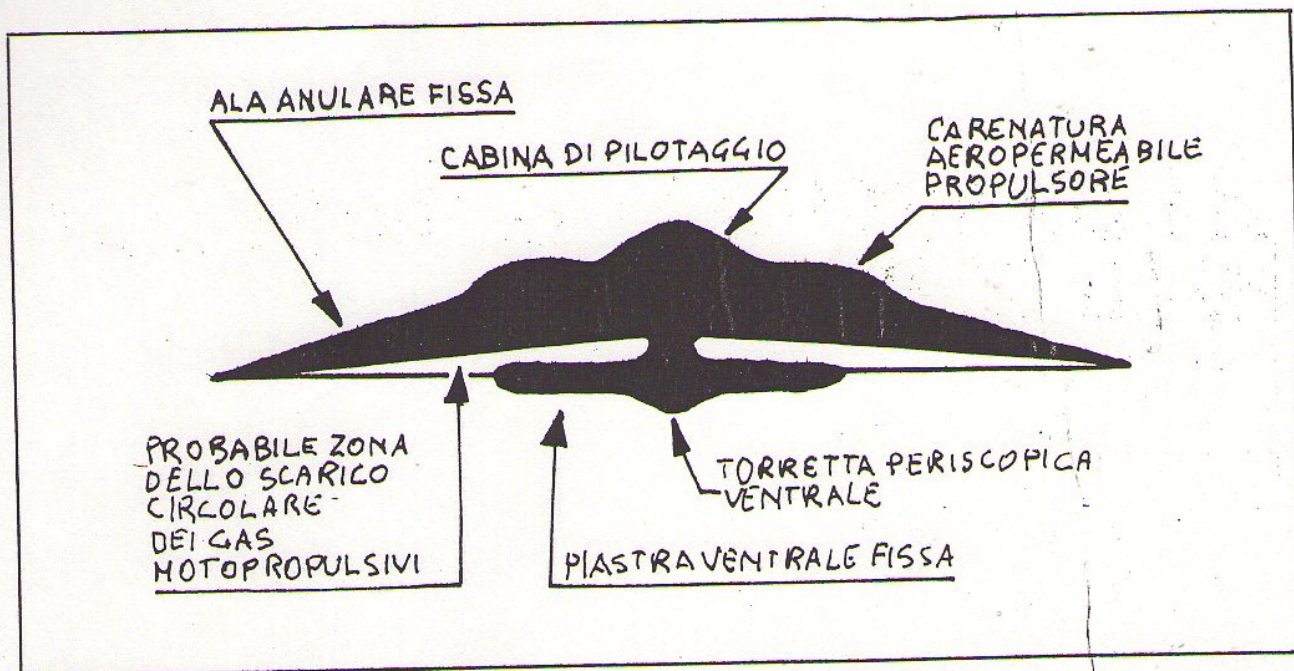
da un insolito fenomeno: in un punto del fiume si spandeva un chiarore innaturale.

Carlo Rossi guardò meglio e vide - sospeso nell'aria, a bassa quota - uno strano veicolo circolare che stava rifornendosi di acqua attraverso un lungo tubo che pescava nel fiume.

Dopo un po' un oblò si aprì nella torretta, e una figura umana si affacciò a scrutare d'intorno: evidentemente scorse l'indiscreto testimone, e fece il gesto di additarlo a qualcun altro che si trovava all'interno del disco.

Comprensibilmente, il pescatore fu vinto dalla paura e fuggì: appena in tempo per salvarsi da un raggio verde, che tagliò improvvisamente il cielo in quella direzione, mentre si udiva nell'aria una scarica elettrica. Si gettò allora a terra, e non alzò la testa finché non vide il disco prendere quota e sparire velocemente verso la Versilia.

Poi Carlo Rossi, cui era passata la voglia di pescare, tornò a casa; ma non fece parola ad alcuno della sua strana esperienza, sicuro che non sarebbe stato creduto.



Alcuni ufologi, tra cui il maggiore Renato Vesco, esperto di tecnica aeronautica, non hanno dubbi nel sostenere che i dischi volanti sono di origine terrestre, e sarebbero costruiti in Canada. Questo ne sarebbe un prototipo, realizzato in base ai piani delle V-2 tedesche

C'è chi afferma di aver veduto un disco volante ritornarsi nel Serchio

Gli imperativi di una partita di pesca. Dieci minuti in osservazione a pochi metri di distanza - L'uomo era in sfilanza e un "raggio della morte". Partenza tipo palla di schioppo - Lo straniero misteriosissimo e la sigaretta tossica

Un pescatore di nome Carlo Rossi, di anni 45, di professione pescatore, ha raccontato che nel 1952, mentre era in sfilanza sul fiume Serchio, ha visto un oggetto volante che si era mosso in modo anomalo. L'oggetto era di forma discoidale, con una torretta periscopica in mezzo. Ha osservato l'oggetto per dieci minuti, a pochi metri di distanza. L'oggetto era in sfilanza e un "raggio della morte". Partenza tipo palla di schioppo - Lo straniero misteriosissimo e la sigaretta tossica



Come nel 1952 i giornali riportarono il fatto capitato al pescatore lucchese, che dopo aver visto casualmente un Ufo, fu interrogato da un militare «straniero» che gli offrì poi una sigaretta tossica

LA SIGARETTA TOSSICA

Circa due mesi dopo, il 26 settembre, alle ore 16, il pescatore tornò sul Serchio, e al suo posto abituale trovò un forestiero alto, magro, dal naso affilato e gli occhi grigi.

Esprimendosi in un italiano corretto, cercò di at-

taccare discorso fino a chiedere a Carlo Rossi se avesse mai visto sul fiume strani oggetti volanti.

Pur riandando col pensiero a quanto accaduto in luglio, il lucchese negò l'esperienza vissuta. L'altro non insistette e la conversazione divagò. Poi il forestiero offrì al Rossi una

sigaretta, e questi nell'accettarla non poté fare a meno di notare che era diversa da tutte quelle - anche estere - che conosceva: era lunga e aveva impresso vicino al filtro una marca in oro mai vista.

Accese la sigaretta e, tiratene alcune bocchate, l'uomo si sentì invadere da un anormale senso di stordimento: istintivamente la spense e fece per riporla nel taschino, ma l'altro gliela strappò di mano, la stracciò e la gettò nel fiume. Poi, senza dare spiegazioni, si allontanò.

Fu così che Carlo Rossi, appena rimessosi dallo stupore e dallo spavento, si decise a raccontare il fatto in Questura: non soltanto aveva visto un disco volante, ma qualcuno voleva che non lo potesse raccontare!

La stampa si occupò del caso, riconoscendo l'assoluta attendibilità del testimone. Da parte delle auto-

rità furono effettuate indagini e sopralluoghi, ma nulla di anormale fu scoperto e tutto finì in un articolo di cronaca.

Secondo una recente inchiesta del Gruppo di Ricerca di Prato per lo studio dei fenomeni ufologici, il forestiero che offrì la sigaretta tossica sarebbe poi stato rivisto nella zona, vestito con una tuta militare. Aveva l'aria di chi viene da un'altra nazione, ma era sicuramente terrestre.

Questo particolare avvalorerebbe l'illazione secondo cui lo strano apparecchio volante era il modello sperimentale di qualche potenza straniera, e ciò potrebbe giustificare anche il secondo episodio, cioè il tentativo di eliminare un pericoloso testimone.

E' interessante anche il particolare - davvero raro - che il disco volante non si era fermato per osservare i terrestri, ma per proprie necessità. Quali che fossero esattamente però resta, e forse resterà sempre, un mistero...

Luciano Gianfranceschi

Misteriosi segnali spaziali captati in URSS

MOSCA, 16 ottobre.

Scienziati sovietici hanno captato onde radio provenienti dallo spazio ed hanno formulato l'ipotesi che esse possano provenire da una civiltà extra-terrestre.

Ne dà notizia l'agenzia sovietica «Tass» asserendo che i segnali spaziali «non erano mai stati ricevuti prima» dagli scienziati sovietici e che non si esclude che «essi possano essere stati inviati da una civiltà extra-terrestre tecnicamente avanzata».

L'agenzia sovietica precisa che i segnali radio sono stati registrati a Gorki e successivamente anche in altre città. Il professore Samuil Kaplan dell'Università di Gorki ha tuttavia affermato che è troppo presto per potersi pronunciare sulla natura dei segnali.

Il professore, secondo quanto riferisce la «Tass», non esclude che i segnali possano provenire dalle bande esterne dell'atmosfera terrestre. (AP)

«Ufo» avvistati sulle Cinque Terre

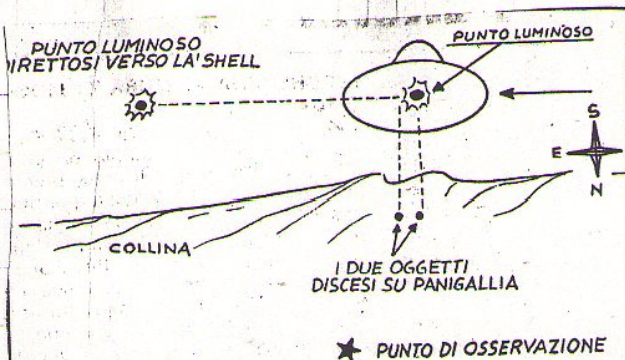
La Spezia, 28 ottobre.

Tre studenti spezzini, Mario Vischio, Ignazio Bonadies e Renato Carassale, avrebbero visto alcuni dischi volanti solcare il cielo sulle alture delle Cinque Terre, e li avrebbero anche fotografati. La pellicola è stata consegnata alla polizia scientifica della Spezia, che l'ha sviluppata. Vi si nota una «palla» infuocata circondata da un alone luminoso.

I tre giovani hanno raccontato che, mentre si trovavano sul monte Parodi (a settecento metri di quota) su un crinale che separa il golfo della Spezia dalle Cinque Terre, verso le ventitré della notte tra venerdì e sabato hanno avvistato strani oggetti luminosi avanzare nel cielo.

Uno di questi (quello fotografato) si è abbassato notevolmente di quota sulla sommità del monte, quindi ha preso a risalire verticalmente, rimanendo visibile per diversi secondi.

Gli studenti non si trovano a caso, di notte e con le macchine fotografiche, sul monte: da tempo trascorrono le notti in osservazione, in quanto avrebbero avuto notizia da alcuni pescatori dei paesi rivieraschi che spesso veniva avvistato, in piena notte, lo strano fenomeno.



La cartina dell'atterraggio del disco oscuro a La Spezia, secondo la testimonianza di Marco Bertocchi. Interessante l'astronave-madre, da cui sarebbero usciti i punti misteriosi...

Americani e russi d'accordo: esistono i «dischi volanti»

Il governatore dell'Ohio dichiara di aver visto volare un oggetto di colore argenteo - Registrati a Mosca segnali radio di probabile origine extra-terrestre

NOSTRO SERVIZIO PARTICOLARE

Nuova York, 17 ottobre.

Non solo negli Stati Uniti «li vedono», ma nell'Unione Sovietica addirittura «li sentono». Questa coincidenza, questa simultaneità di avvistamenti un po' dappertutto in America, e l'annuncio che scienziati sovietici hanno registrato segnali, che potrebbero arrivare da «civiltà extra-terrestri», costituisce la caratteristica della nuova psicosi dei «dischi volanti» che ha riaccessi in questi giorni la fantasia popolare.

L'ultimo avvistamento qui è avvenuto lunedì scorso, di notte. Un personaggio non comune, il governatore dello stato dell'Ohio, John Gilligan, ha dichiarato ai giornalisti di aver visto, assieme alla consorte Katie, un oggetto di colore argenteo e di averlo potuto osservare per oltre mezz'ora. Volava, ha affermato il governatore, al di sopra di una nuvola nella quale poi si è tuffato, scomparendo alla vista.

John Gilligan e sua moglie Katie sono finora gli ultimi, diciamo, avvistatori di «UFO» (oggetti non identi-

ficati), di una serie di testimoni oculari che in questi ultimi giorni insistono di averne visti negli stati del Tennessee, della Carolina del sud, nel Delaware, Kentucky, Alabama, Illinois. Ed i loro rapporti alle locali autorità di polizia sono circostanziati, corredati cioè dalla descrizione del veicolo, delle sue luci intermittenziali, degli omidi roscicci che a volte vengono fuori da queste strane macchine volanti.

Tanto è emerso dalle dichiarazioni fatte giovedì scorso allo sceriffo di Pascagoula, nello Stato del Mississippi, da Charles Hickson e Calvin Parker, due cittadini rispettabilissimi. Giovedì scorso — così hanno detto — essi stavano pescando, quando sull'acqua è ammarato un disco volante, ne sono usciti tre ominidi roscicci con la pelle rinsecchita e piena di rughe, che li hanno costretti a salire a bordo, sottoponendoli a un attento esame prima di lasciarli andare senza torcer loro un capello. «Da allora — ha dichiarato lo sceriffo — ho perduto la mia pace. Nelle ultime ventiquattro ore non ho chiuso occhi: le denunce di avvistamenti di

oggetti non identificati continuano ad arrivare ad un ritmo insostenibile».

La notizia che a Mosca scienziati sovietici stanno ricevendo e registrando strani segnali radio di probabile origine extra-terrestre ha fatto esultare tutti coloro che giurano di aver visto giusto.

Gli scettici ora sono serviti, dicono. E fra questi scettici, va sottolineato, ci sono anche gli esperti dell'aviazione militare americana che, dopo aver esaminato 12.097 avvistamenti, hanno completato nel 1969 un'inchiesta durata 21 anni, escludendo che si trattasse di visitatori della terra in arrivo da altri pianeti.

L'agenzia ufficiale Tass ha annunciato che più di trenta scienziati sovietici sono attualmente impegnati a cercare segnali radio provenienti dagli alti spazi, poiché di recente sono stati raccolti e registrati «segnali mai prima d'ora ascoltati, che non si esclude possano essere inviati da civiltà, tecnicamente supersviluppate, abitanti negli alti spazi».

Franco Occhiuzzi



Terzo Simposio Internazionale sugli Ufo a San Marino

"UFO NEL PASSATO: UN FENOMENO SENZA TEMPO"

Curato da Roberto Pinotti
e organizzato dal C.U.N.

in collaborazione con il CROVNI
con il patrocinio del

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della Repubblica di San Marino

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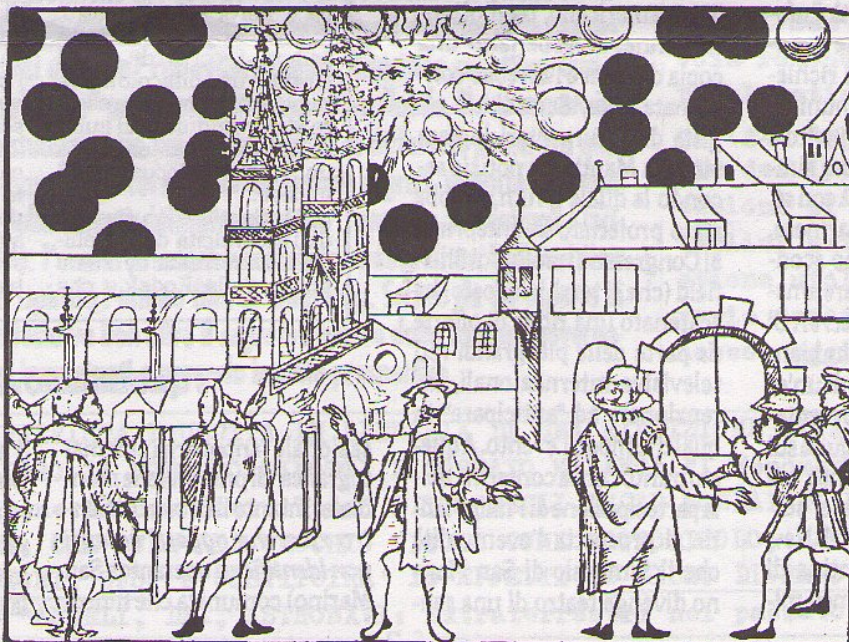
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A N T I C I P A Z I O N I

Ormai giunto alla terza edizione, il Simposio di S. Marino intende quest'anno focalizzare la casistica ufologica anteriore al 1947 in rapporto a quella odierna, per indicare la continuità e persistenza del fenomeno UFO nel tempo e nello spazio, e con essa la sua natura estranea. Così, ad



esempio, il caso di Roswell (1947) sarà messo a confronto con quello, meno noto, di Aurora nel Texas (1897), a suo tempo frettolosamente liquidato. In particolare, oltre al russo Boris Shurinov, allo spagnolo Javier Sierra, al tedesco Michael

Hesemann e al romeno Ion Hobana, già intervenuti su altri temi alle precedenti edizioni della manifestazione, sta comunque attirando l'attenzione generale degli appassionati del problema come pure della stampa di informazione l'annunciata e ormai confermata venuta al Simposio, in rappresentanza della "British UFO Research Association" (BUFORA) inglese (il nostro omonimo di oltre Manica), dello studioso e collega Philip Mantle. Mantle, infatti, ha legato il suo nome all' "affaire" Santilli (si vedano le informazioni qui riprodotte desunte dalla stampa italiana all'indomani del "flash" d'agenzia diffuso dall'ANSA e diffuso da vari quotidiani) e fornirà indiscutibilmente una serie di ghiotte anticipazioni in sede congressuale (come auspicato dalla stampa sammarinese) sul controverso argomento (di cui, come si ricorderà, già l'anno scorso si occuparono i giornali italiani riferendo indiscrezioni secondo cui S. Spielberg sarebbe già da tempo in possesso di questo fantomatico filmato segreto girato nel 1947 a Roswell dai militari americani).

Ufo: nuovi sviluppi a seguito della notizia di ieri

Il film sull'alieno a San Marino?

Forse al Simposio, in anteprima mondiale

Con tutta probabilità l'ufologo Philip Mantle, che ha accettato dietro formale richiesta del Dicastero comunicazioni di San Marino l'invito a partecipare al prossimo simposio sugli Ufo, porterà con sé, nella sua visita sammarinese, alcuni spezzoni di uno sconcertante filmato militare americano, per anni *top-secret*. Si tratta di una pellicola in bianco e nero della durata di un'ora e mezzo che documenterebbe un'autopsia eseguita sul cadavere di un presunto extraterrestre, "precipitato" sulla terra (a Roswell, nel New Mexico) una cinquantina di anni fa. Un ex cameramen mi-

litare americano, oggi ottantaduenne, avrebbe fatto una copia del film e l'avrebbe consegnata a Ray Santilli, un regista di documentari inglese vicino a Mantle. La notizia secondo la quale il film sarebbe stato proiettato in anteprima al Congresso di ufologi di Sheffield (che si terrà in agosto) ha scatenato una ridda di offerte da parte delle più grandi reti televisive internazionali, intenzionate ad "anticipare" in qualche modo l'evento. A questo punto con la conferma della partecipazione di Philip Mantle si prospetta l'eventualità che il Simposio di San Marino divenga teatro di una sen-

L'Ufo è atterrato nel documentario

Londra
Margherita Moneglia

Gli Ufo-scettici sorrideranno di commiserazione, i sostenitori dall'«alieno» acclameranno con soddisfazione, gli abitanti di Roswell, New Mexico, avranno la rivincita. Già ebbero il loro momento di gloria quando qualcosa di misterioso si schiantò in zona nel 1947, sparpagliando pezzi di materiale strano nelle aiuole dei loro giardini. Da quel giorno una lunga serie di testimoni, giornalisti e turisti si sono avventurati in ipotesi, certezze e dubbi, alternati alle smentite ufficiali più o meno convincenti circa l'atterraggio di una nave spaziale con extraterrestri a bordo. Finalmente l'anno scorso la Air Force americana ha ammesso che non si trattava di traveggole, né di palloni meteorologici, bensì di un sofisticato impianto radar per intercettare le esplosioni nucleari sovietiche.

Lo spinoso argomento sembrava chiuso, quando salta fuori il filmato originale sull'evento, ad opera di un cameraman militare che, prima di consegnarlo e distruggerlo, fece una copia e se la tenne per sé. Suddetta pellicola, in bianco e nero, senza sonoro, ma abbastanza chiara da vedere i corpi di esseri strani in un abitacolo ancora più strano, sembra essere stata venduta dall'autore, adesso ottantenne, ad un regista di documentari inglese.

Ray Santilli è sicurissimo dell'autenticità della pellicola, confermata del resto anche dalla Kodak, che

mostra molta gente aggirarsi fra i rottami e accanto al «corpo»: troppi per essere tutti d'accordo e fare una montatura così sofisticata, senza che qualcuno prima o poi si lasciasse scappare detto qualcosa. Come quando nel 1987 trapelò la notizia che, su questo caso, Harry Truman aveva istituito un corpo speciale di esperti per analizzare il disco volante e i suoi occupanti.

A quel tempo una Commissione scientifica per la ricerca del paranormale fu convocata con estrema urgenza, per ottenere un rassicurante verdetto di totale mistificazione e inattendibilità di tali documenti. Adesso la pellicola in questione è in mano della British Ufo Research Association, che la presenterà in prima assoluta in agosto alla Sheffield University, prima di cederla alla Bbc per un documentario sul controverso argomento.

Philip Mantle, l'organizzatore della conferenza, non ha dubbi sul significato del filmato: per esempio: «Si vede l'interno di una struttura temporanea, forse una tenda, illuminata da lampade non elettriche. La creatura è distesa ad una estremità mentre dall'altra di sono due uomini in camice bianco che sembrano prelevare campioni di tessuto. La creatura sembra longilinea, senza capelli e senza protuberanze quali naso e orecchi, ma con grandi, ovali occhi scuri».

Francamente, una scena e una descrizione propinata con decine di varianti in decine di film di fantascienza. Ma se questa volta si trattasse davvero di extraterrestri, quelli veri?

«Quotidiano di San Marino»

sazionale "anteprima cinematografica" di proporzione mondiale. Intanto il *Crown* (il Centro ricerche oggetti volanti non identificati operante a San Marino) comunica che lunedì

3 aprile al Centro sociale di Dogana, sulla scia del clamore che il caso Mantle ha sollevato, sarà proiettato il film "Roswell: la verità", prodotto dalla Columbia tristar.

CINEMA Il regista in possesso di un filmato sconvolgente dove apparirebbero quattro extraterrestri

Spielberg: sono veri i miei nuovi ET

CORRIERE
DELLA SERA
2 Febbraio 1994

LONDRA — Sembra che Steven Spielberg abbia messo le mani su un clamoroso filmato dove si vedono i cadaveri di quattro marziani «veri» accanto ai rottami di un disco volante schiantato a terra. Il regista vorrebbe utilizzare le scioccanti immagini per un nuovo film, rivela «in esclusiva» il tabloid londinese «Daily Star».

«Sono un ufologo appassionato e per anni ho saputo dell'esistenza di quel filmato segreto. "E.T." e "Incontri ravvicinati del terzo tipo" erano pura fantascienza. Il prossimo film sarà basato su un fatto scientifico», ha spiegato il regista americano.

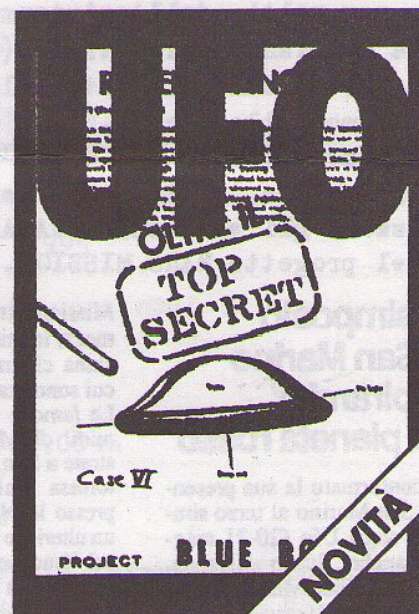
A detta del «Daily Star» le riprese sui quattro extraterrestri morti furono effettuate su ordine del Pentagono e sono state viste soltanto da un ristretto gruppo di generali e alti funzionari del governo Usa. Il misterioso disco volante con a bordo i marziani si sarebbe schiantato a terra 47 anni fa, per l'esattezza il 2 luglio 1947, nel deserto del New Mexico: due radioreporter locali erano pronti

a dare la notizia dopo il rinvenimento dei rottami da parte di un cowboy ma sarebbero stati fermati dal Pentagono «per ragioni di sicurezza nazionale».

Un cine-operatore militare, Nicholas Van Poppen, avrebbe ripreso i cadaveri degli esseri venuti dallo spazio nel contesto di ricerche top-secret sulle analogie con gli esseri umani. Stando al «Daily Star», Spielberg si è già assicurato cinquanta milioni di dollari (circa 85 miliardi di lire) per girare la pellicola e lanciarla alla grande fra tre anni, in occasione del «cinquantenario» dell'evento.

Per la sua prossima opera il celebre regista avrebbe scelto il titolo «Majic-12», un codice usato alla Casa Bianca per le investigazioni ufologiche. «La pellicola — ha detto al tabloid un anonimo collaboratore di Spielberg — dimostrerà in modo conclusivo che gli extraterrestri davvero esistono. C'è stato un colossale complotto per negare questa realtà». Spielberg progetterebbe inoltre un seguito di «Jurassic Park». ●

Sia come sia, la cautela è d'obbligo. Il che non ci impedirà di fare la nostra parte, come sempre. Pure nell'eventualità di una operazione di contro-informazione dell'intelligence USA: uno scenario inquietante evocato dall'ultimo libro di R. Pinotti, edito da Bompiani.



Roberto Pinotti UFO. TOP SECRET

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Da quasi mezzo secolo l'enigma degli UFO (*Unidentified Flying Objects*) continua a imporsi in tutto il mondo come un fenomeno reale di natura tecnologica e di ignota provenienza, per la comprensione del quale i vari Governi hanno costituito numerosi organismi ufficiali di studio e di indagine caratterizzati dal massimo riserbo. Ma perché un silenzio così ostinato? Per evitare panico, isterismo collettivo, crisi di autorità e uno «shock culturale» per il momento non controllabile. Il top secret vige tuttora sull'argomento studiatissimo dai servizi segreti di differenti paesi. Tra questi spicca la CIA statunitense, dalla cui mole di documenti segreti, in parte resa nota per virtù della «Legge sulla Libertà dell'Informazione», emerge nei dettagli l'incidente di Roswell (1947): l'ormai pressoché accertata caduta di un UFO nel New Messico, evento che ha ispirato l'ultimo film di Spielberg. Scritto da un'esperto di fama mondiale, questo testo va ben oltre il segreto imposto dalle censure governative, delineando scenari inquietanti e aprendo insolite prospettive.

A UFO: TOP SECRET sarà dedicata, durante il Simposio di San Marino, una tavola rotonda dedicata alle problematiche del «cover up» (già oggetto del Simposio del 1994) le cui implicazioni si estendono a molteplici settori della questione ufologica e delle varie tematiche ad essa connesse, oggi più che mai.

PER GIUGNO E' PREVISTA L'USCITA IN LIBRERIA DI UNA RIEDIZIONE RIVEDUTA, CORRETTA ED AMPLIATA DEL LIBRO DI ROBERTO PINOTTI E CORRADO MALANGA "I Fenomeni B.V.M.: le manifestazioni mariane in una nuova luce" EDITO NEGLI OSCAR MONDADORI ED OGGI ESAURITO. IL NUOVO VOLUME, CHE AVRA' IL VECCHIO TITOLO COME SOTTOTITOLO, SARA' INTITOLATO "MADONNE, APPARIZIONI, UFO" E COSTITUIRA' IN EFFETTI UN LIBRO DIVERSO, SEGUITO IDEALE DEL PRECEDENTE "ANGELI, DEI, ASTRONAVI: Extraterrestri nel passato" (OSCAR SAGGI).

Certo UFO: TOP SECRET, che uscirà a maggio nelle librerie, costituisce un evento editoriale importante, in quanto fa il punto sul problema del "cover up" sugli UFO, in tutto il mondo. Di esso si parlerà anche a San Marino, dunque.

Fra gli ospiti stranieri, inoltre, va segnalata la presenza del "team" scientifico americano MARS MISSION, da anni impegnato nello studio delle enigmatiche strutture rilevate fotograficamente dalla NASA sulla superficie del pianeta Marte, nella Regione Cydonia: la cosiddetta "sfinge" e le "piramidi" da questa non lungi; indizio, per molti, dell'esistenza di una civiltà marziana oggi estinta (e che potrebbe essere stata collegata alla comparsa dell'Uomo sulla Terra), e su cui la NASA sembra aver calato una cappa di riserbo impenetrabile, contro cui - appunto - polemizzano gli ex-tecnici NASA oggi riuniti nel progetto MARS MISSION.

Al simposio di San Marino le 'piramidi' del pianeta rosso

Ha confermato la sua presenza a San Marino al terzo simposio sugli Ufo (20-21 maggio) anche Susan Karaban, della 'Missione Marte', fondata da esperti fuoriusciti dalla Nasa per divergenze con l'establishment statale sulle immagini fornite a terra dai satelliti in orbita attorno al pianeta rosso. Da anni 'Mars

Mission' studia con moderni mezzi tecnici la regione marziana chiamata Cydonia in cui sono state scattate le foto. Le famose 'facce' e le 'piramidi' di Marte saranno mostrate a San Marino dalla dottoressa Karaban che lavora presso le Nazioni unite. Sarà un ulteriore spunto di dibattito sul 'fenomeno extraterrestre', in aggiunta al piatto forte: gli spezzoni del filmato coi resti di un disco volante e il suo equipaggio girato a Roswell (Nuovo Messico) nel 1947, una vicenda rimasta finora coperta da top secret.

In sostituzione di Richard Hoagland, coinvolto il 20 e 21 maggio in altri impegni, interverrà a San Marino per MARS MISSION la Dott.ssa Susan Karaban, un funzionario delle Nazioni Unite che non deluderà né il pubblico né la pubblica informazione. Infine (vedi qui a lato) per la data del Simposio sarà insediato il Centro Internazionale Permanente sugli Oggetti Volanti Non Identificati e i Fenomeni Connessi, che il Governo di San Marino ha stabilito di ospitare per ora, in attesa dell'agibilità della Sede concordata, nei locali di competenza della Sede Amministrativa dell'Università. Sarebbe stato assurdo, dopo il forzato ritardo di mesi, attendere oltre. Ricordiamo infine l'avvenuta uscita, nella serie OSCAR MONDADORI (Saggi), dell'atteso libro di Roberto Pinotti "I CONTINENTI PERDUTI", il cui capitolo conclusivo costituirà, per gli appassionati della nostra materia, una piacevole sorpresa. Arrivederci a San Marino!

Una casa per l'Ufo

IL RESTO DEL
CARLINO (RSM)
14 Aprile 1995

Sta per accasarsi sul Titano il Centro internazionale di documentazione sugli oggetti volanti non identificati. Oggi stesso il segretario generale del CUN (Centro ufologico nazionale), Roberto Pinotti è atteso a San Marino assieme a Gianfranco Lollino, dal deputato alle telecomunicazioni Augusto Casali. Faranno una ricognizione nell'edificio destinato a diventare la sede del centro che raccoglierà documentazione di ogni sorta: rassegne stampa, reperti fotografici, video, ecc. su tutto ciò che è stato catalogato come oggetto volante non identificato. Praticamente, l'intero patrimonio documentale messo insieme dal Centro ufologico nazionale anno dopo anno. Ad ospitare tutto il materiale sarà un edificio del centro storico concesso in usufrutto dal governo. Il tempo per allestire i locali stringe, poiché si vorrebbe far coincidere l'inaugurazione del centro col terzo simposio mondiale di ufologia (20 e 21 maggio); quest'anno dedicato al fenomeno ufo in epoca precedente agli anni Quaranta.

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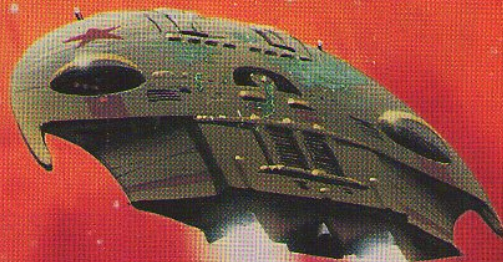
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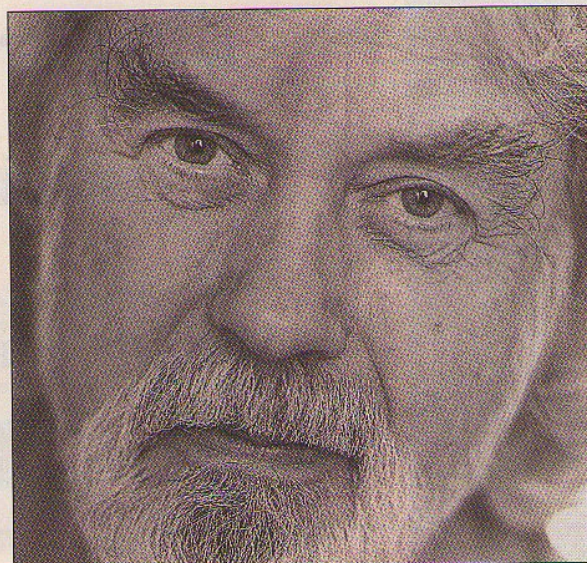
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Scenes of flying disks and fiery planets have long cast a shadow of uncertainty over what we call reality. In this special UFO issue, *Omni* investigates the possible yet problematic. Cover art by Chris Moore. (Additional credits, page 109)

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Interview
By Nina L. Diamond

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FORUM

ANNOUNCING PROJECT OPEN BOOK: *Omni's* inquiry into the UFO phenomenon

By Keith Ferrell

This is a special issue of *Omni*, one that's likely to be controversial, and is frankly designed to be provocative. Our subject is alleged alien presence in our skies and among our population, and the possibility of government cover-ups both here and abroad of alien spacecraft and beings. Our approach is uniquely *Omni*.

It's time, we feel, to clear the air about UFOs, close encounters of any kind, abductions, and all the kinds and classes of alleged extraterrestrial—or

Hearsay and rumor—which run rife in the UFO community—don't count. What's required for a scientific investigation is evidence, documentation, fact. All of which are in short supply in the UFO phenomenon.

At the heart of the phenomenon, fueling many of the stories, lies consistent and unfortunate government mishandling of alleged encounter investigations. (Not just our government: Read Jim Oberg's look at Russian UFO research in this issue.) Whether there are or aren't any encounters, the government's posture has been to classify and confuse its research, leading to an environment perfect for paranoia.

And paranoia is so appealing, so romantic. There is an aura of mystery, of secrets we're not allowed to apprehend, of cover-ups and conspiracies. It's so easy to assume someone *else* is in control.

It's time for the secrecy to end. It's time for *us* to take control.

That's why *Omni* is inaugurating, with this issue, Project Open Book. If its name reminds you in some ways of the government's long-suspended Project Blue Book, that's not by accident.

Put simply, Project Open Book is *Omni's* effort to provide a clearinghouse for hard, documented information about alien encounters, and especially about government cover-ups of alleged encounters. *Omni* is ready to take a look, hopeful of arriving at some answers.

One way or the other. We have no ax to grind; we do not approach the topic as "true believers" nor do we dismiss the possibility of extraterrestrial presence out of hand. For better or worse, we are willing to examine the question seriously, to investigate worthwhile reports, to share the information with our readers

and the world. An Open Book.

The Project starts now. We start by laying the historical groundwork. This issue, we begin a multipart series that will, month by month, look back at the leading stories of alleged cover-ups over the past half century. Beyond that, we'll look toward the future, toward avoiding or overcoming the confusion and misinformation that too often surround UFO materials.


We also provide you with the tools to seek information on your own. Check out the "Freedom Fighters Handbook" this month, and add your voice to those calling for government files to be opened to public scrutiny.

You're part of this. We welcome your submissions to Project Open Book. If you have evidence—evidence that can be backed up, supported, and confirmed six ways from Sunday—send it to *Omni*: Project Open Book, 324 West Wendover Avenue, Suite 205, Greensboro, North Carolina, 27408, or join us in the new Project Open Book section of *Omni* Online, available through America Online, where you will be able to post your stories, engage in debates, and add your voice to the mix.

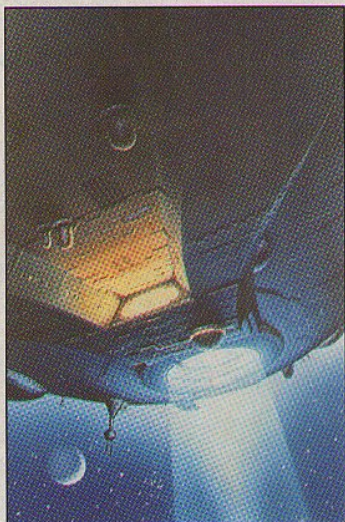
Send copies of your materials, and keep the originals in a safe place. While we promise to treat submissions with respect, we cannot guarantee their return, nor can we guarantee a response to every submission we receive.

We do guarantee that submissions able to stand up to the scrutiny of scientific and journalistic investigation will be shared with the world.

Together, we can put an end to the foolishness that surrounds this fascinating topic.

Welcome to Project Open Book. 

Project Open Book is *Omni's* initiative aimed at clearing the UFO phenomenon of foolishness, false information, mistrust, and groundless paranoia.

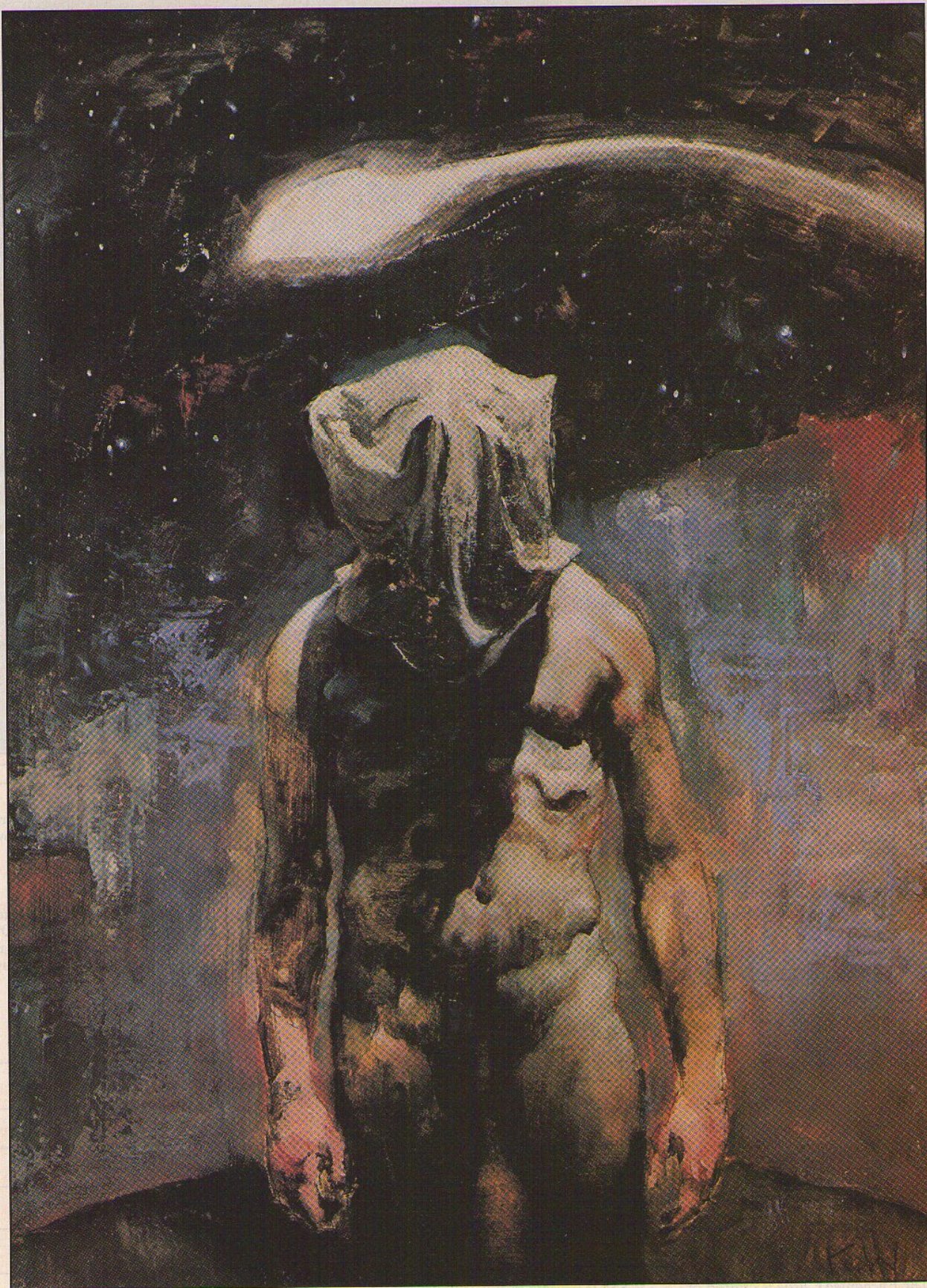


extradimensional or extraterrestrial—visitation. To open the topic to the hard light of rational scientific and journalistic inquiry.

We are not speaking of tabloid sensationalism or special-effects wish fulfillment. No E.T. No supermarket flying saucers.

It's a simple question. Is there evidence of alien presence on Earth, and have governments suppressed that evidence? We can answer that, can't we?

The essence of science is skepticism; the watchword of the scientific method is proof.



ARTICLE BY DENNIS STACY

COSMIC CONSPIRACY: SIX DECADES OF GOVERNMENT UFO COVER-UPS —PART ONE—

Lightning flashed over Corona, New Mexico, and thunder rattled the thin windowpanes of the small shack where ranch foreman Mac Brazel slept. Brazel was used to summer thunderstorms, but he was suddenly brought wide awake by a loud explosion that set the dishes in the kitchen sink dancing. *Sonofabitch*, he thought to himself before sinking back to sleep, *the sheep will be scattered halfway between hell and high water come dawn.*

In the morning, Brazel rode out on horseback, accompanied by seven-year-old Timothy Proctor, to survey the damage. According to published accounts, Brazel and young Proctor stumbled across something unearthly—a field of tattered debris two to three hundred yards wide stretching some three-quarters of a mile in length. No rocket scientist, Brazel still realized he had something strange on his hands—so strange that he decided to haul several pieces of it into Roswell, some 75 miles distant, a day or two later.

For all its lightness, the debris in Brazel's pickup bed seemed remarkably durable. Sheriff George Wilcox reportedly took one look at it and called the military at Roswell Army Air Field, then

ILLUSTRATION BY KENT WILLIAMS

home to the world's only atomic-bomb wing. Two officers from the base eventually arrived and agreed to accompany Brazel back to the debris field.

As a consequence of their investigation, a press release unique in the history of the American military appeared on the front page of the *Roswell Daily Record* for July 8, 1947. Authored by public-information officer Lt. Walter Haut and approved by base commander Col. William Blanchard, it admitted that the many rumors regarding UFOs "became a reality yesterday when the intelligence office of the 509th Bomb Group of the Eighth Air Force, Roswell Army Air Field, was fortunate enough to gain possession of a disc through the cooperation of one of the local ranchers and the sheriff's office of Chaves County."

Haut's noon press release circled the planet, reprinted in papers as far abroad as Germany and England, where it was picked up by the prestigious *London Times*. UFOs were real! Media calls poured in to the *Roswell Daily Record* and the local radio station, which had first broken the news, demanding additional details.

Four hours later and some 600 miles to the east in Fort Worth, Texas, Brig. Gen. Roger Ramey, commander of the Eighth Air Force, held a press conference to answer reporters' questions. Spread on the general's office floor were

lumps of a blackened, rubberlike material and crumpled pieces of what looked like a flimsy tinfoil kite. Ramey posed for pictures, kneeling on his carpet with the material, as did Maj. Jesse Marcel, flown in from Roswell for the occasion. Alas, allowed the general, the Roswell incident was a simple case of mistaken identity; in reality, the so-called recovered flying disc was nothing more than a weather balloon with an attached radar reflector.

FREEDOM FIGHTERS HANDBOOK:

THE OFFICIAL FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT HOW-TO FOR INVESTIGATING UFOs

BY PAUL MCCARTHY

Many people think the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), passed by Congress in 1966, gives an American citizen automatic access to any government document. Not so. UFO researchers have found that it gives them the right to request, but government agencies retain the right to deny—as they often do.

In fact, applicants find, FOIA requests may be stymied by any number of exemptions. When information is related to criminal investigations, pending policy deliberations, national security considerations, or when it violates an individual's privacy, the FOIA application is denied. The applicant can appeal, of course, and if he or she loses, may take the case to federal court—but who has the money? On top of that, FOIA requests are not a priority with the government, so some agencies have backlogs that won't be acted upon for years. On other occasions, UFO investigators suspect their petitions are acted upon too quickly and end up in the circular file.

Yet thousands of pages of UFO documents have been pried loose over the past 20 years. None clinch the case for a government cover-up of UFO activity, but they, along with the cross-referencing of other documents and insider tips, hold out the intriguing possibility that the government is clinging to hundreds of thousands of pages of files for the diligent or lucky to unearth. Hoping to satisfy our readers' fascination for government secrets new and old, the following handbook details some of the most tantalizing FOIA requests and provides tips on tapping the government for more.

"Unfortunately, the media bought the Air Force cover-up hook, line, and sinker," asserts Stanton Friedman, a nuclear physicist and coauthor with aviation writer Don Berliner of *Crash at Corona*, one of three books written about Roswell. "The weather-balloon story went in the next morning's papers, the phone calls dropped off dramatically, and any chance of an immediate follow-up was effectively squelched."

Ramey's impromptu press conference marks the beginning of what Friedman refers to as a "Cosmic Watergate," the ongoing cover-up of the government's knowledge about extraterrestrial UFOs and their terrestrial activities." By contrast, says Friedman, the original Watergate snafu and cover-up pales in significance. In fact, if Friedman and his cohorts within the UFO community are correct, military involvement in the recovery of a crashed flying saucer would rank as the most well-kept and explosive secret in world history.

Of course, not all students of the subject see it that way. "You have to put Roswell in a certain context," cautions Curtis Peebles, an aerospace historian whose treatment of UFOs as an evolving belief system in *Watch the Skies!* was just published by the Smithsonian Institution. "And the relevant context is the role of

government and its relationship to the governed. Americans have always been suspicious, if not actively contemptuous, of their government. On the other hand, forget what the government says and look at what it does. Is there any evidence in the historical record that the Air Force or government behaved as if it actually owned a flying saucer presumably thousands of years in advance of anything on either the Soviet or U.S. side? If there is, I didn't find it."

Regardless of its ultimate reality, however, Roswell

symbolizes the difficulties and frustrations Friedman and fellow UFOlogists have encountered in prying loose what the government does or does not know about UFOs. Memories fade, documents get lost or misplaced, witnesses die, and others refuse to speak up, either out of fear of ridicule or, according to Friedman, because of secrecy oaths. Despite a trail that lay cold for more than 30 years, UFOlogists still consider Roswell one of the most convincing UFO cases on record. In 1978, for example, Friedman personally interviewed Maj. Jesse Marcel shortly before his death. "He still didn't know what the material was," says Friedman, "except that it was like nothing he had ever seen before and certainly wasn't from any weather balloon." According to what Marcel reportedly told Friedman, in fact, the featherlight material couldn't be dented by a sledgehammer or burned by a blowtorch.

Yet getting the Air Force itself to say anything about Roswell in particular or UFOs in general can be an exercise in futility. Officials are either bureaucratically vague or maddeningly abrupt. Maj. David Thurston, a Pentagon spokesperson for the Air Force Office of Public Affairs, could only refer inquiries to the Air Force Historical Research Center in Montgomery, Alabama, where unit histories are kept on microfilm for public review. But a spokesperson there said they had no "investigative material" and suggested checking the National Archives for files from Project Blue Book, the Air Force's public UFO investigative agency from the late 1940s until its closure in December of 1969.

Indeed, the dismissive nature with which U.S. officials treated Blue Book research seemed to indicate they were unimpressed; on that point, believers and skeptics alike agree. But according to Friedman and colleagues, that

YOUR EYES ONLY: OMNI'S TOP TIPS FOR ACCESSING CLASSIFIED MATERIAL ON UFOs

ON THE DOCKET

UFOlogists list the most dramatic attempts to pry loose documents still marked classified.

The Big Fish. The most important FOIA UFO case ever, according to UFO researcher Stanton Friedman, was filed in 1979 against the CIA. Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS), an Alexandria, Virginia, organization headed by Larry Bryant, joined with others, including Friedman, to go after all UFO documents in the possession of the CIA. The CIA responded that it could do nothing because the documents it had were issued by other agencies and could only be released by *them*. Of those, CAUS went after 18 National Security Agency (NSA) documents, but the NSA would not release them, claiming they would reveal "sources and methods." CAUS filed an administrative appeal with the NSA and lost. It then went to federal court, and the judge ordered NSA to search its files for UFO documents. Surprise: 239 documents showed up—79 from other unnamed agencies, 23 from the CIA, and 137 unexpected NSA bonus documents. Still, the NSA refused to release them, and the judge, after reading the NSA's justification, agreed. Under a later FOIA action, the CIA released 9 of its 23 documents, mostly unimportant abstracts of Eastern European press stories on UFOs. Adding the original 18 NSA documents that CAUS sought to the newly uncovered batch of 137 shows that the NSA held on to 155 while the CIA retained 11. In addition, 79 documents from other agencies never saw the light of day—proof, according to Friedman, that the government *can* keep a secret.

Project Moon Dust. Projects Moon Dust and Blue Fly are purportedly efforts aimed at retrieving manmade space objects that reenter the atmosphere and crash.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 110

demeanor, and Blue Book itself, was a ruse. Instead, far from the eyes of Blue Book patsies, in top-secret meetings of upper-echelon intelligence officers from military and civilian agencies alike, UFOs—including real crashed saucers and the mangled bodies of aliens—were the subject of endless study and debate. What's more, claims Friedman, proof of this UFO reality can be found in the classified files of government vaults.

With all this documentation, Friedman might have had a field day. Unfortunately, researchers had no mechanism for forcing classified documents to the surface until 1966, when Congress passed the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The FOIA was later amended in the last year of the Nixon administration (1974) to include the Privacy Act. Now individuals could view their own files, and some UFOlogists—Friedman included—were surprised to find that their personal UFO activities had resulted in government dossiers.

Be that as it may, UFOlogists saw the FOIA as a means to an end, and beginning in the 1970s, their requests and lawsuits started pouring in. Attorneys for the Connecticut-based Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS) and other UFO activists eventually unleashed a flood tide of previously classified UFO documents.

In many cases, notes Barry Greenwood, director of research for CAUS and coauthor with Lawrence Fawcett of *The Government UFO Cover-up*, most agencies at first denied they had any such documents in their files. "A case in point is the CIA," says Greenwood, "which assured us that its interest and involvement in UFOs ended in 1953. After a lengthy lawsuit, the CIA ultimately released more than a thousand pages of documents. To date, we've acquired more than ten thousand documents pertaining to

UFOs, the overwhelming majority of which were from the CIA, FBI, Air Force, and various other military agencies. It's safe to say there are probably that many more we haven't seen."

As might be expected, the UFO paper trail is a mixed bag. Many of the documents released are simple sighting reports logged well after the demise of Blue Book. Others are more tantalizing. A document released by the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) revealed that several sensitive military bases scattered from Maine to Montana were temporarily put on alert status following a series of sightings in October and November of 1975. An Air Force Office of Special Intelligence document reported a landed light seen near Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico, on the night of August 8, 1980.

Another warm and still-smoking gun, according to Greenwood, is the so-called Bolender memo, named after its author, Brig. Gen. C. H. Bolender, then Air Force deputy director of development. Dated October 20, 1969, it expressly states that "reports of unidentified flying objects which could affect national security . . . are not part of the Blue Book system." Says Greenwood, "I take that to mean that Blue Book was little more than an exercise in public relations. The really significant reports went somewhere else. Where did they go? That's what we would like to know."

Of course there are objections to such a literal interpretation. "As I understand the context in which it was written," says Philip Klass, a former senior editor with *Aviation Week and Space Technology* and author of *UFOs: The Public Deceived*, "the Bolender memo tried to address the problem of what would happen with UFO reports of any sort following the closure of Project Blue Book. Bolender was simply saying that other channels for such reports, be they incoming Soviet missiles or whatever, already existed."

Greenwood counters that the original memo speaks for itself, adding that "the interesting thing is that sixteen referenced attachments are presently reported as missing from Air Force files."

Missing files are one problem. Files known to exist but kept under wraps, notes Greenwood, are another. To make his point, he cites a case involving the ultrasecret National Security Agency, or NSA, an acronym often assumed by insiders to mean "Never Say

Anything." Using cross references found in CIA and other intelligence-agency papers, CAUS attorneys filed for the release of all NSA documents pertaining to the UFO phenomenon. After initial denials, the NSA admitted to the existence of some 160 such documents but resisted their release on the grounds of national security.

Federal District Judge Gerhard Gesell upheld the NSA's request for suppression following a review (judge's chambers only) of the agency's classified 21-page *In Camera* petition. "Two years later," Greenwood says, "we finally got a copy of the NSA *In Camera* affidavit. Of 582 lines, 412, or approximately 75 percent, were completely blacked out. The government can't have it both ways. Either UFOs affect national security or they don't."

The NSA's blockage of the CAUS suit only highlights the shortcomings of the Freedom of Information Act, according to Friedman. (See the sidebar "Freedom Fighters Handbook," beginning on

"OUR PROBLEM IS WITH
GOVERNMENT SECRECY, BECAUSE IT WIDENS
THE GAP BETWEEN
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page 36.) "The American public operates under the illusion that the FOIA is some sort of magical key that will unlock all of the government's secret vaults," he says, "that all you have to do is ask. They also seem to think everything is in one big computer file somewhere deep in the bowels of the Pentagon, when nothing could be farther from the truth. Secrecy thrives on compartmentalization."

In recent years, UFOlogists have found an unusual ally in the person of Steven Aftergood, an electrical engineer who directs the Project on Government and Secrecy for the Washington, DC-based Federation of American Scientists, where most members wouldn't ordinarily give UFOs the time of day. "Our problem," says Aftergood, "is with government secrecy on principle, because it widens the gap between citizens and government, making it that much more difficult to participate in the democratic process. It's also antithetical to peer review and cross-fertilization, two natural processes conducive to the

growth of both science and technology. Bureaucratic secrecy is also prohibitively expensive."

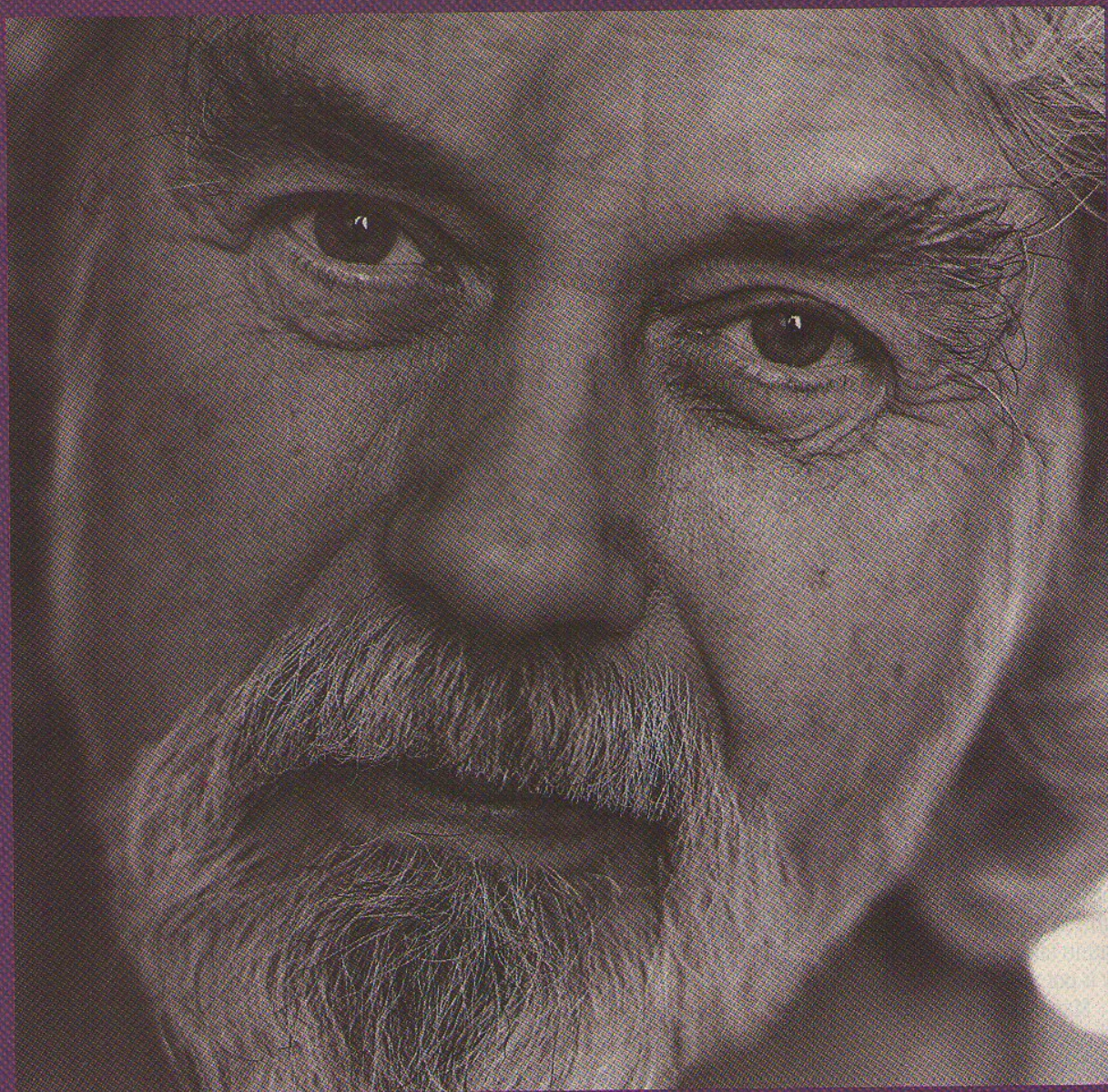
Aftergood cites some daunting statistics in his favor. Despite campaign promises by a succession of Democratic and Republican presidential administrations to make government files more publicly accessible, more than 300 million documents compiled prior to 1960 in the National Archives alone still await declassification. Aftergood also points to a 1990 Department of Defense study, which estimated the cost of protecting industrial—not military—secrets at almost \$14 billion a year. "That's a budget about the size of NASA's," he says, adding that "the numbers were ludicrous enough during the Cold War, but now that the Cold War is supposedly over, they're even more ludicrous."

Could the Air Force and other government agencies have their own hidden agenda for maintaining the reputed Cosmic Watergate? Yes, according to some pundits who say UFOs may be our own advanced super-top-secret aerial platforms, not extraterrestrial vehicles from on high. Something of the sort could be occurring at the supersecret Groom Lake test facility in Nevada, part of the immense Nellis Air Force Base gunnery range north of Las Vegas. Aviation buffs believe the Groom Lake runway, one of the world's longest, could be

home to the much-rumored *Aurora*, reputed to be a hypersonic Mach-8 spy plane and a replacement for the recently retired SR-71 Blackbird.

In fact, the Air Force routinely denies the existence of *Aurora*. And with Blue Book a closed chapter, it no longer has to hold press conferences to answer reporters' questions about UFOs. From the government's perspective, the current confusion between terrestrial technology and extraterrestrial UFOs could be a marriage of both coincidence and convenience. The Air Force doesn't seem to be taking chances. On September 30 of last year, it initiated procedures to seize another 3,900 acres adjoining Groom Lake, effectively sealing off two public viewing sites of a base it refuses to admit exists.

By perpetuating such disinformation, if that is, in fact, what's happening, the Air Force might be using a page torn from the Soviet Union's Cold War playbook. James Oberg, a senior space engineer and author of *Red Star in Orbit*, a critical analysis of the Soviet space



THREE INSIDERS
DESCRIBE A
MILITARY UNDERGROUND
AWASH IN UFOs

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Robert O. Dean (above) says NATO met E.T.

IN

1969, Project Blue Book—the 16-year U.S. Air Force investigation of UFOs—came to an end, and so did the government's interest in extraterrestrial flying discs. Or so the American public has been told. In recent years, numerous individuals and documents from

various agencies have emerged from behind the veil of government secrecy to tell a different story. Their spin: that while the government officially abandoned all interest in UFOs, a secret military underground was hot on the trail of suspicious radar blips, saucers, and even the aliens themselves. What follows are the stories of three individuals—two of whom come with impressive military credentials; they say they have glimpsed what seems like evidence of a decades-old cover-up cloaked in the guise of national security. The third interviewee, a propulsion-system engineer, claims he was hired by an independent military contractor to study the innards of an extraterrestrial spacecraft being researched and tested on the Nellis Air Range in central Nevada.

INSIDE THE MILITARY UFO UNDERGROUND

Article by A. J. S. Rayl • Photographs by David Michael Kennedy

Omní cannot endorse the veracity of the stories told below. In fact, we must emphasize that extraordinary tales like these require extraordinary levels of proof certainly not furnished in our pages, nor, we feel, anywhere else. That said, we'll get to the fun part. In the pages that follow, you'll find strange tales of alien intrigue and UFO woe. Decide for yourself: Are these the ravings of demented hoaxers and madmen or revelations of truth? Their stories, delivered in dossier format, have been edited from interviews conducted by author A. J. S. Rayl during the past year.

NATO Meets E.T.

Name: Robert O. Dean, retired Army command sergeant major

Claim: Back in the Sixties, NATO issued a classified report stating that UFOs were real, of extraterrestrial origin, and had visited the earth. This extraordinary report was said to come out of NATO's command center, the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers, Europe (SHAPE), located then just outside of Paris, France.

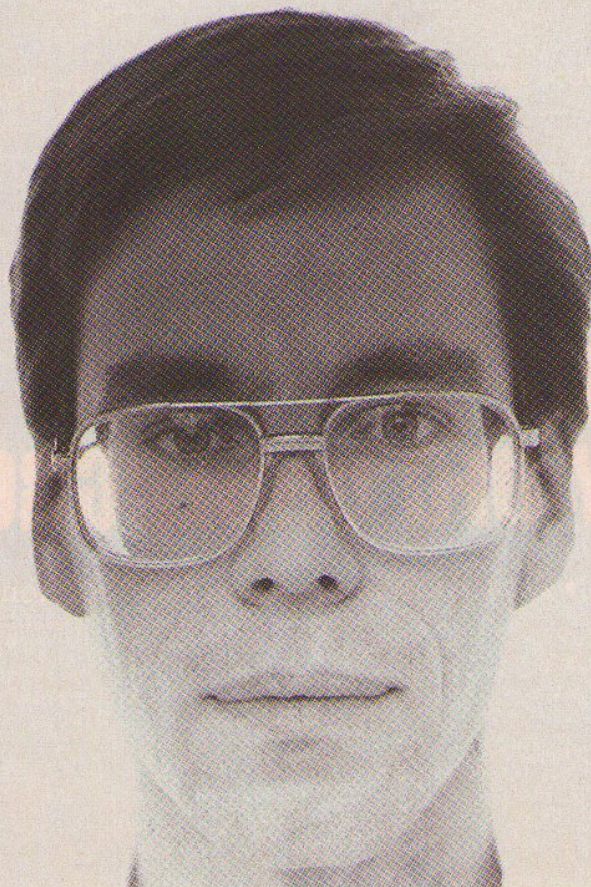
Background: Dean, a highly decorated veteran, served on the front lines in both Korea and Vietnam. In 1963, while assigned to the Supreme Headquarters Operations Center (SHOC), SHAPE's war room, headed up by then-supreme allied commander of Europe, Gen. Lyman Lemnitzer, Dean

claims he was able to read the detailed 12-inch-thick NATO report on UFOs.

The Story: "SHAPE was one of those choice assignments. You had to have a spotless record and pass security background checks. I applied on a whim and got it. I was very proud and pleased. At SHAPE, I was put through more security checks, given a Cosmic Top Secret (yes, this is a real term) clearance, the highest NATO has, and assigned to the Supreme Headquarters Operations Center, known as SHOC, the NATO war room. In those days, the activity would run hot and cold and much of it would depend on how the Soviets wanted to play it. The most intriguing thing to me was that we were continually having a problem with large, metallic, circular objects that would appear over central Europe; these were reported as visual phenomena by our pilots and appeared on radar as well. Some flew in formation, and most of the time we spotted them coming out of the Soviet Union, over East Germany, West Germany, France, and then they would often circle somewhere over the English Channel and head north, disappearing from NATO radar over the Norwegian Sea. These objects were very large, moving very fast, at very high altitudes—higher than we could reach at the time—and they seemed obviously under intelligent control.

"I was told this had been going on for some time and that in February 1961 there had been quite a scare. Fifty of

BOB LAZAR SAYS HE STUDIED AN ALIEN PROPULSION SYSTEM FOR THE U.S. MILITARY.



these objects were spotted on radar and headed in formation from the Soviet Union toward Europe, flying at about 100,000 feet. The Soviets had closed all borders. Everybody went to red alert. All hell broke loose. We really thought 'The War' had started. We scrambled. We knew the Russians were scrambling. It was the largest number of these objects that had been seen. Fortunately—and only by the grace of God—we didn't start bombing and neither did the Russians. In nine minutes, they were gone.

"I was told that then-Deputy Supreme Allied Commander of Europe, Sir Thomas Pike, had been repeatedly requesting information from London and Washington about these objects, but nothing would ever come. We found out later that the Columbine-Topaz spy ring in Paris was intercepting everything and forwarding it to the KGB, which often got intelligence information even before we did. So Pike decided, I was told, to develop an in-house study to determine whether these objects were a military threat.

"In the meantime, the UFO matter literally brought about the establishment of direct communication between the East and West in 1962, which I have always found interesting and ironic. We had pretty well determined by that time that these were not Russian craft, and the Russians had determined they were not ours. So, we came to an understanding, and a direct telephone line was opened between SHOC and the Warsaw Pact Headquarters Command. Of course, a setup was always a possibility, so we had backup ways of checking out whether the Russians were being truthful. But since we were both armed to the teeth and World War III was just ticking away, it was a logical step in the right direction. That idea developed into the hotline between the president of the United States and the Soviet premier, following the Cuban Missile Crisis.

"Well, by the time I arrived in 1963, everybody had been talking about the study, and I had heard the rumors, seen the blips on radar, witnessed the commotions, and some of us occasionally even talked about the possibilities. But nothing really prepared me for what I started to read in the early morning hours one night in January 1964.

"It was about 2:00 a.m. and a relatively quiet night when the SHOC controller on duty went into the vault and came out with this huge document. 'Take a look at this,' he said. The title was simply *Assessment: An Evaluation of a Possible Military Threat to Allied Forces in Europe*. It was numbered, #3,

stamped *Cosmic Top Secret*, had eight inches worth of appendices, dozens of photographs, and had been signed into the vault by German colonel Heinz Berger, SHOC's head of security. I quickly learned that it was based on two and a half years of research, was funded by NATO money, and that only 15 copies were published—in English, German, and French. Each one was numbered. All were classified and ordered to be kept under lock and key.

"Every time I got the chance, from then until I left, I would read a section or two in it. It was the most intriguing document I'd ever read. It was put together by military representatives of every NATO nation and also included contributions from some of the greatest scientific minds. These objects were violating all of our known laws of physics, and the study team had gone to Cambridge, Oxford, the Sorbonne, MIT, and other major universities for input on chemistry, physics, atmospheric physics, biology, history, psychology, and even theology, all of which were separate appendices.

"I read about theories on Einstein's sought-after unified-field theory, the high radiation at various landing sites, and UFO reports that dated back to the Roman era and up to our own F105 pilots' sightings and encounters, and on and on. I had always been a skeptic, but this report, well . . . it concluded that this stuff was not science fiction.

"I read about contact encounters. One incident that had just happened in 1963 involved a landing on a Danish farm. According to the report, the farmer went aboard with the two little beings and two more human-looking men who spoke to him in Danish. The report included parts of his interrogation by government authorities and their conclusions that he was telling the truth. In another incident, according to the reports, a craft landed on an Italian airfield and offered to take an Italian sergeant for a ride. He wet his pants—that's what it said—and was so scared, he didn't go.

"The appendix that really got to me was titled 'Autopsies.' I saw pictures of a 30-meter disc that had crashed in Timmensdorfer, Germany, near the Baltic Sea in 1961. The British Army, according to the report, got there first and put up a perimeter. The craft had landed in very soft, loamy soil near the Russian border and so hadn't destructed, but one-third of it was buried in. We and the Russians, who also quickly showed up, had both tracked it.

"Inside, there were 12 small bodies, all dead. There were pictures of the bodies, which looked like the beings

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Drum. Your Own T-Shirt.

known as the 'grays,' being laid out and then put on stretchers and loaded into jeeps, and autopsy photos, too. Some of the little grays appeared to not be a reproductive-capable species. The autopsy guys concluded, according to the report, that it looked as if they had been cut out of a cookie cutter—clones with no alimentary tract. They did not ingest or process food as we know it, nor did it appear that they had any system for elimination.

"The craft itself was cut up like a pie into six pieces, put on lowboys and hauled off. Scuttlebutt was that it was given to the Americans and flown to Wright-Patterson Air Force base in Ohio. I looked at these pictures and couldn't believe it. My skin got cold and I thought, *My God*. I had never really believed we were all alone in the universe, but this was hard to swallow.

"The major conclusions in the NATO report blew me away. There were five: 1) The planet and human race had been the subject of a detailed survey of some kind by several different extraterrestrial civilizations, four of which they had identified visually. One race looked almost indistinguishable from us. Another resembled humans in height, stature, and structure, but with a very gray, pasty skin tone. The third race is

now popularly known as the grays, and the fourth was described as reptilian, with vertical pupils and lizardlike skin. 2) These alien visitations had been going on for a very long time, at least 200 years—perhaps longer. 3) The extraterrestrials did not appear hostile since if that were their intent they would have already demonstrated their malevolence. 4) UFO appearances and quick disappearances as well as the flybys were demonstrations conducted on purpose to show us some of their capabilities. 5) A process or program of some sort seemed to be underway since flybys progressed to landings and eventually contact.

"I wanted so badly to copy this thing. I did take a photograph of the cover sheet, which wasn't in and of itself classified. But I didn't want to wind up in Fort Leavenworth. So instead I would go to the bathroom and take notes—surreptitiously, very carefully.

"I have been through an awful lot in my life, but I've never been able to just walk away from that report. I know that I'm taking a chance by violating my oaths. But this is the most important issue of our times—so damn important that I can't think of anything more important, and the public has been deceived and completely kept in the

dark about all of this for all these years. It's the biggest scientific, political scandal ever. Besides, what have I got to lose? I'm 64 years old now. Are they going to bump me off? I have told the truth. My integrity and credibility stand. When is our government going to tell the truth?"

Update: After 27 years of military service, Dean retired and began another 14-year career with the Pima County Sheriff's Department Emergency Services in Tucson, Arizona. In 1990, he gave a lecture at the University of Arizona in which he talked about UFOs. The talk garnered local media coverage. Afterward, he was denied a promotion at the Sheriff's Department, because, he alleged, he believed in UFOs. Dean filed suit and won an out-of-court settlement in March 1992. Now retired, Dean has become a member of several UFO organizations and has begun giving occasional lectures. He is working through "any and all legitimate channels" to uncover a copy of the NATO document and to gather witnesses for an open Congressional hearing on the subject of UFOs.

Official Response: "Our list of classified documents generated by SHAPE at that time does not include any with titles similar to that cited by Mr. Dean," says Lt. Col. Rainer Otte, German Air Force, deputy chief, media section of the public-information office at SHAPE. "Files on military personnel are in all circumstances kept under national control. Information on the security clearance that Mr. Dean held may—if ever—only be released by U.S. authorities."

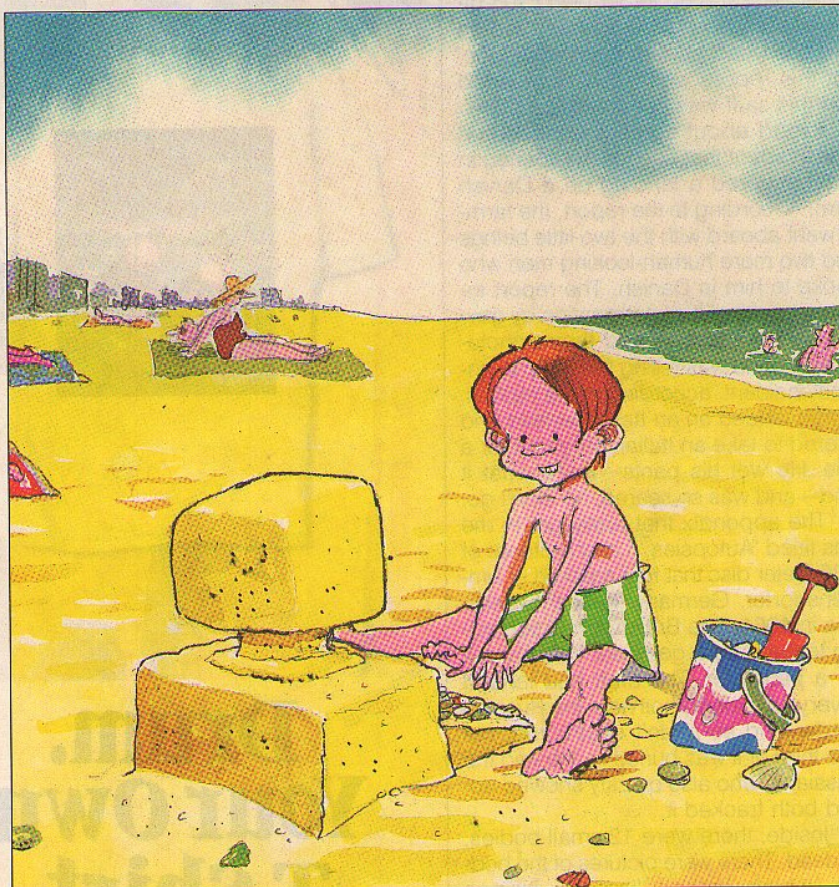
The Critics' Corner: "This is a fascinating story, but fantastic claims like these need more than one man's testimony to be credible," says Jerome Clark of the Center for UFO Studies. "Unless independent verification comes forth, this remains only an intriguing anecdote, not unlike many others that have circulated since the early UFO era."

Project Galileo

Name: Bob Lazar, independent contract scientist and businessman

Claim: To have worked as a propulsion-system engineer in late 1988 and early 1989 on one of nine extraterrestrial spacecraft being researched and tested on the Nellis Air Range in central Nevada.

Background: From 1982 to 1984, Lazar claims he worked at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico in the Meson Physics lab with a Q-level security clearance. In 1985, while on vacation in Nevada, he wound up buying into a legal Reno brothel; the investment proved so profitable that he didn't



have to return to full-time employment for a while. He moved to Nevada in 1986. In 1988, he wanted to get back into scientific work and was hired, he says, to work on the top-secret Project Galileo. Lazar passed a lie-detector test in 1989, arranged by George Knapp, then an anchorman for KLAS-TV, the CBS affiliate in Las Vegas, Nevada, for a special locally aired series, *UFOs: The Best Evidence*.

The Story: "In 1988, I decided to reenter the scientific community and sent résumés to various people. Finally, I interviewed with a placement firm to work for the Department of Naval Intelligence in a civilian capacity, and in the fall of 1988, I was hired on an on-call basis to work on a project involving advanced propulsion systems. At that point, that's all I knew.

"Not long after, I was flown along with several others out to area 51 on the Nellis Air Range. There, we were put on a bus with blacked-out windows and driven about 15 miles south to the Papoose dry lake bed, bordered by the Papoose Mountains, where there was an installation they called 'S4.'

"I was introduced to my supervisor and a co-worker and then given a stack of briefings on various projects, including Project Galileo, which was de-

voted to the study of nine disc-shaped extraterrestrial craft that were somehow acquired by the U.S. government.

"I was assigned back engineering tasks on the reactor and gravity-propulsion system of one of the discs—essentially to help figure out what made it work. I don't know whether it was a crash retrieval, although I doubt it, because the disc didn't appear damaged in any way. In the briefing reports, there were pictures of several discs along with some of the information they had already obtained from back engineering research.

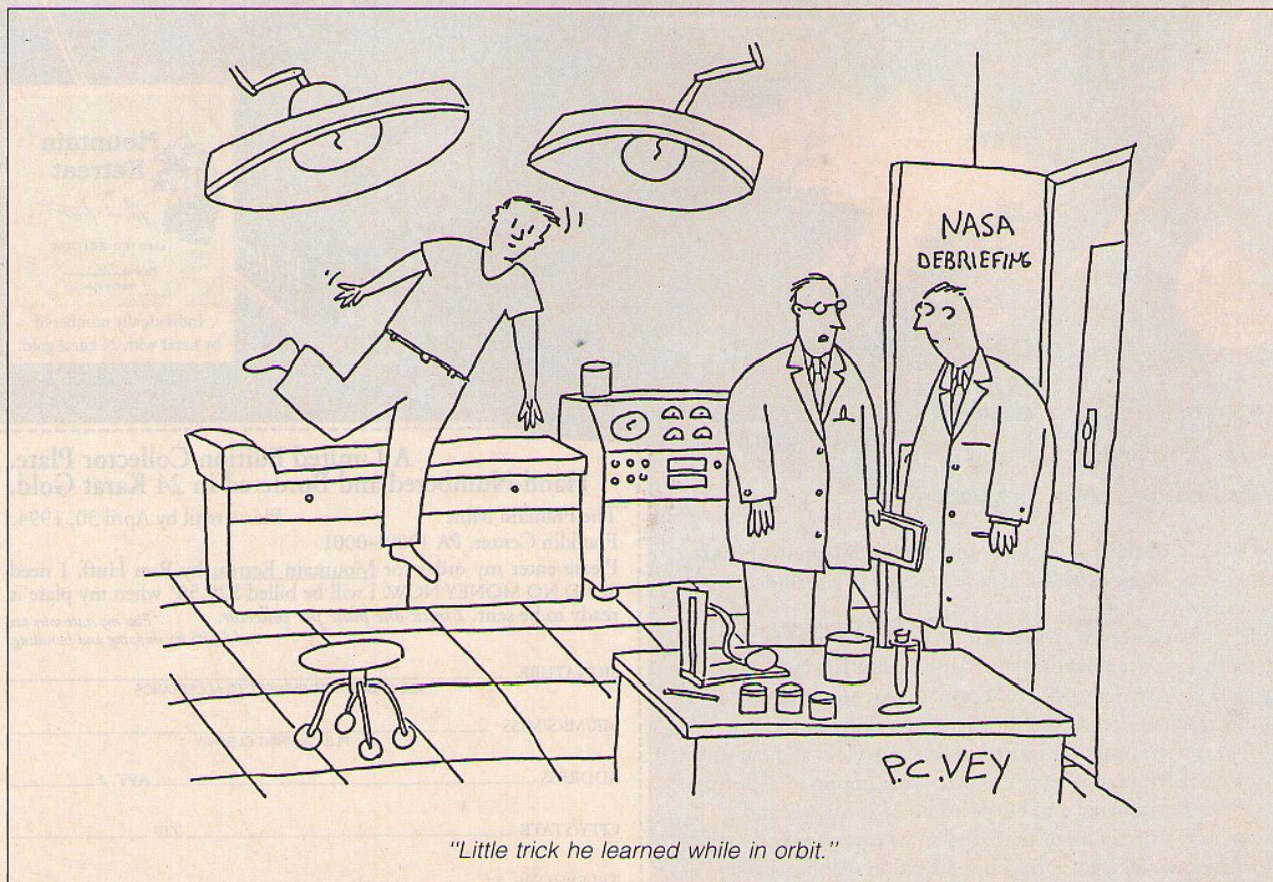
"I was stunned and exhilarated at the same time. But there were well-armed guards everywhere, and this place wasn't exactly the kind of environment where you could just start asking any and every question you had. Security, in fact, was oppressive. You were escorted everywhere, even the bathroom. And if your I.D. badge was just the slightest bit out of place, you would be tackled by a guard and held with a gun to your head until your supervisor arrived. And the guards lived for that.

"At times, the whole thing seemed just surreal. There was a poster of the disc I was working on, which I dubbed the Sport Model, on several walls. It read, *They're here*.

"I dealt with only the power sources and propulsion systems on one of the discs, and I did enter that one disc on several occasions. The disc was approximately 15 feet tall and about 52 feet in diameter. It had the appearance of brushed stainless steel or brushed aluminum. I didn't run a test on it, so I don't know if it was metal, but I did run my hands down the side of it getting in, and it felt cold, like metal, and it looked like metal. It had no physical seams, no welds or bolts or rivets, and it looked as if it were injection molded.

"Inside, there were tiny little seats, much too small to comfortably handle an averaged-sized human. I bumped my head on the ends of the craft, so I concluded that the ceiling curved down to below five feet, 11 inches inside. There was not a right angle cut anywhere in the craft. Everything had a smooth curve to it.

"The reactor, which produced anti-matter and then reacted it with matter in an annihilation reaction, was only about 18 inches in-diameter and 12 inches tall and was located in the center of the disc. It operated like a tiny ballet, where everything that happened relied on the effect before it. The way it accelerated protons inside of it, the way the heat was converted to electricity,



was totally smooth without any wasted heat or latent energy. It was phenomenal, approaching a 100-percent dynamic efficiency. Now that seems impossible when you consider the laws of thermodynamics. All I can say is that this technology is well beyond anything that we now know with our twentieth-century knowledge.

"The reactor is fueled with an element that is not found here on Earth. Part of my contribution to the program was to find out where this element plugged into the periodic chart. Well, it didn't plug in anywhere, so we placed it at an atomic number of 115. It has been theorized for some time that elements around 113, 114, and 115 may become stable and nonradioactive, and this is apparently what we were seeing. Element 115 is a stable element, but one with some interesting properties. It can be used inside the reactor as a fuel, but also as the source of an energy field accessed and amplified by the craft's gravity amplifiers. In other words, the craft was both fueled and propelled by virtue of element 115.

"There was a storage of silver-dollar-sized discs of element 115 from which triangular wedges were cut and put into the reactor. It was a copper-orange color and extremely heavy. While it was not radioactive, we assumed it was a toxic material and consequently handled it as such.

"In all the discs at S4, there were three gravity amplifiers positioned in a triad at the base of the craft. These were the propulsion devices. Essentially, what they did was amplify gravity waves out of phase with those of the earth. The craft operated in two modes—omicron and delta, which indicated how many gravity amplifiers were in use. In the omicron configuration, only one amplifier was used; the other two were swung out of the way and tucked inside the disc. In omicron mode, the crafts can essentially rise and hover but do little else. To leave the atmosphere, however, all three gravity amplifiers have to be powered up and focused on the desired location. Finally, the crafts do not travel in a linear mode. Rather, we determined that the discs produced their own gravitational fields in order to distort time and space and essentially pull their destinations to them.

"One afternoon, my colleagues and I walked out onto the dry lake bed. The disc on which we had been working, the Sport Model, had already been moved out of the hangar and was be-

ginning to lift off. Except for a slight hissing, it made no noise. It lifted to about 30 feet off the ground. The hissing stopped, and it just hung silently in the air, moving to the left, then right. It was absolutely amazing.

"The way information is compartmentalized, that's all the hands-on information and experience I was allowed to have access to, though we were given the chance on occasion and only for short periods of time to read briefing reports that detailed other aspects of this project. The reports I read that dealt with power and propulsion systems were accurate, and I proved that to myself by working on the system. Still, I draw a hard line between what I know to be true and what I read in the other briefing reports.

"With that understanding, I did read reports about the origin of this disc. According to one of the briefings, it came from the Zeta Reticuli star system. Now obviously I didn't fly in a craft or go to that star system, so I don't really know

coming back again and again.

"Anyway, the third time we got caught by the Wackenhut Security guards out on the Bureau of Land Management land that surrounds the range. They turned me in. Needless to say, officials at Nellis weren't happy. I went through a debriefing and was threatened at that time. I was scared and felt that I needed to break away from this before I couldn't.

"Not only did I believe this technology should be given to the greater scientific community, but I also believed my only protection was to get the story out. A friend convinced me to talk to George Knapp at KLAS-TV. I figured if they killed me, then it would simply prove that what I was saying was true.

"There are many scientists who theorize that there simply cannot be extraterrestrial discs here, that aliens could not possibly have come here specifically, because the distance traveled is too great and the energy required too awesome, and that there's no relatively quick way to go that distance even at the speed of light. What I reported is what I experienced, though in some respects I regret going public. If I had it to do over again, I might be more inclined to stay on as one of the boys."

Update: In 1990, after Lazar says he was released from Project Galileo, he accepted a freelance job setting up a database and surveillance system for an ille-

gal Las Vegas brothel. That gig eventually garnered him six felony counts, including aiding and abetting a prostitute, running a house of prostitution, and living off the earnings of a prostitute. The charges were quickly dropped to a single felony count of pandering. The one good thing that came out of the resulting trial, Lazar says, is that he's not being followed anymore—at least not to his knowledge. "I guess they figured the pandering conviction discredited me," he comments.

Lazar currently earns a living from his two small companies, an independent contracting firm that repairs nuclear devices, and a photo lab. He also builds and races jetcars. And, every year since 1984, on the weekend before July 4, he has staged Desert Blast, which he says is the "the largest illegal fireworks show in the West." This annual pyrotechnic extravaganza features huge fireworks and assorted gas bombs made by Lazar and friends as well as jetcar demonstrations and a little semiautomatic weapons venting.

"ACCORDING TO ONE
REPORT, THE CRAFT CAME FROM THE ZETA
RETICULI STAR SYSTEM.
THE ALIENS TOLD OFFICIALS THEY HAD BEEN
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TO ACCELERATE THE EVOLUTION OF MAN."

if it came from there. I didn't speak to any aliens or see any, so I don't know if they exist or not. That report also said that contact was made at a certain date; however, all the dates were in code. Also, according to the report, these beings told our officials that they had been coming here for 10,000 years, that humans are the product of externally corrected evolution, and that they were integral to the accelerated evolution of man.

"My tolerance for the intensive security rapidly diminished. Because of the 24-hour telephone surveillance, they found out I was having marital problems and told me the situation had made me a candidate for 'emotional instability.' They then took my security clearance and told me I could reapply in six months.

"Well, I knew the test schedule, and I couldn't resist, so one night I decided to show some friends from a distance what I had been working on. We all caravaned out into the desert where we watched a test flight. We got away it with it that time, so we started

Lazar recently sold his movie rights and is working on a new home video.

Official Response: "The Air Force comment is that there is no comment on anything that goes on at the Nellis Range," says Air Force Master Sgt. J. C. Marcom of Public Affairs. Meanwhile, according to Technical Sergeant Henderson of Public Affairs, "The Air Force has no record that Lazar ever worked at Nellis Air Force Base, though we have compiled an extensive list of inquiries as to his status."

The Critics' Corner: "We've pretty well determined that Lazar did work at Los Alamos, but it's been impossible to verify exactly what he did," says Mark Rodeghier, scientific director of the Center for UFO Studies. "As for element 115, physicists admit that such an element is theoretically possible, but we don't know how to manufacture it or where to get it. So, Lazar's claim to have worked with this element is not necessarily insane, but it's completely unverifiable. Finally, he seems to know enough to have really worked at Area 51 or Dreamland where secret aircraft are tested, but his story remains a murky mystery. The bottom line: It's impossible to verify. So far, we have not found anyone to corroborate the essentials of what Lazar says."

Baffled at Bentwaters

Name: Col. Charles I. Halt, U. S. Air Force, retired

Claim: In late December 1980, while serving as deputy base commander at Bentwaters Air Base in southern England, Halt witnessed and investigated several anomalous objects in the skies over the Rendelsham Forest, which separates the American installation from its twin Royal Air Force base, Woodbridge. The sightings occurred on two separate nights during the week after Christmas. Two weeks later, Halt sent a report about the strange encounters to the British Ministry of Defense.

Background: A career Air Force officer, Halt served in Vietnam and on various bases before arriving at Bentwaters in 1980. He was promoted to base commander in 1984. Halt later served as base commander at Kunsan Air Base, Korea, and as director of the inspections directorate for the Department of Defense inspector general. He retired in 1991. Halt is the first USAF officer since Project Blue Book ended to have filed a memo on unidentified flying objects and gone public with the details.

The Story: "Just after Christmas, about 5:30 a.m., December 26, 1980,

I walked into police headquarters and the desk sergeant started to laugh. He said a couple of the guys had been out chasing UFOs. Nothing, however, was in the blotter. I told him to put it in.

"When our base commander came in, we both chuckled. Neither of us believed in UFOs, but we did decide to look into it. Before we had the chance, two nights later, the duty flight commander for the security police unit rushed in to a belated Christmas party white as a sheet. 'The UFO is back,' he said.

"I was asked to investigate. I changed into a utility uniform, then headed out in a jeep to the edge of the forest. About a dozen of our men were already there. Our light-alls (large gas-powered lights) wouldn't work, and there was so much static and constant interference on our radios that we had to set up a relay. There was increasing commotion. I was determined to show them this was nonsense.

"I took half a dozen of the men and headed into the woods on foot to a clear-

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ing where the initial incident had supposedly taken place. We found three distinct indentations in the ground equidistant apart and pressed well into the sandy soil. They were supposedly caused by the object seen two nights before, but I didn't see anything sitting there that night. Neither did anybody else there.

"Inside the triangular area formed by the indentations, one of the men got slightly higher readings on the Geiger counter than he did outside. He photographed the area, and I took a soil sample. Meanwhile, I recorded this activity on my microcassette recorder.

"We knew the Orford Ness lighthouse beacon beamed from the southeast. All of a sudden, directly to the east, we saw an unusual red, sunlike light—oval shaped, glowing, with a black center—10 to 15 feet off the ground, moving through the trees. Beyond the clearing was a barbed-wire fence, farmer's field, house, and barn. The animals were making a lot of noise.

"We ran toward the light up to the

fence. It shot over the field and then moved in a 20- to 30-degree horizontal arc. Strangely, it appeared to be dripping what looked like molten steel out of a crucible, as if gravity were somehow pulling it down. Suddenly, it exploded—not a loud bang, just boompf—and broke into five white objects that scattered in the sky. Everything except our radios seemed to return to normal.

"We went to the end of the farmer's property to get a different perspective. In the north, maybe 20 degrees off the horizon, we saw three white objects—elliptical, like a quarter moon but a little larger—with blue, green, and red lights on them, making sharp, angular movements. The objects eventually turned from elliptical to round.

"I called the command post, asked them to call Eastern Radar, responsible for air defense of that sector. Twice they reported that they didn't see anything.

"Suddenly, from the south, a different glowing object moved toward us at a high rate of speed, came within several hundred feet, and then stopped. A pencil-like beam, six to eight inches in diameter, shot from this thing right down by our feet. Seconds later, the object rose and disappeared.

"The objects in the north were still dancing in the sky. After an hour or so, I finally made the call to go in. We left those things out there.

"The film turned out to be fogged; nothing came out. But a staff sergeant later made

plaster castings of the indentations, and I had the soil sample.

"Around New Year's Eve, I took statements and interviewed the men who had taken part in the initial incident. The reports were nearly identical.

"Basically, they reported this: In the early morning hours of December 26, one of the airmen drove to the back gate at Woodbridge on a routine security check. He saw lights in the forest, specifically a red light, and thought maybe an airplane had crashed. He radioed a report, which was called into the tower, but the tower reported nobody was flying.

"Eventually, a group headed out to the forest. They reported strange noises—animals, movement, like we heard two nights later.

"As they approached the clearing, they reported seeing a large yellowish-white light with a blinking red light on the upper center portion and a steady blue light emanating from underneath. The tower again reported nothing on radar.

"A few of the men moved to within

20 or 30 feet. Each said the same thing independently—a triangular-shaped metallic object, about nine feet across the base, six feet high, appeared to be sitting on a tripod. They split up, walked around the craft. One of the men apparently tried to get on the craft, but, they said, it levitated up.

"All three of the guys hit the ground as the craft moved quickly in a zigzagging manner through the woods toward the field, hitting some trees on the way. They got up and approached again, but the object rose up, and then it disappeared at great speed.

"Finally, on January 13, 1981, I wrote a memo to the British Ministry of Defense. Despite my efforts, to my knowledge, no one from any intelligence or government agency ever came on base to investigate.

"I have never sought the limelight, nor have I hidden. I stand to receive no financial benefit from this interview but consented because it's time the truth came out. I don't know what those objects were. I don't know anybody who does. But *something* as yet unexplained happened out there."

Update: In 1983, a copy of Halt's memo to the British MOD was released through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Shortly thereafter, a copy of the 18-minute audiotape of the investigation Halt conducted was given to a British UFOlogist by, Halt says, another Air Force officer. Both have made the rounds within the UFO community.

As a result, Halt says he has been "harassed" by UFOlogists and fanatics. While half a dozen men assisted Halt's investigation and dozens of others were near the scene, only a handful of witnesses have come forward. At least one of them, Halt says, is spreading disinformation; consequently, media coverage has been inaccurate at best. For instance, he says, "The stories about holographiclike aliens emerging from their craft are pure fiction."

Official Response: "The Air Force stopped investigating UFOs in 1969 when Project Blue Book was completed," says Air Force spokesman Maj. Dave Thurston, based in Washington, DC.

The Critics' Corner: "The UFO you hear described on the audiotape was almost certainly the lighthouse beacon in my opinion, because the peak interval between their descriptions of it getting brighter, then dimmer, is the time of rotation of the beacon, which was about ten miles away," says UFO skeptic Philip Klass. "Even though they said they saw numerous lights in the night sky, one of every three UFOs reported turns out to be a bright celestial body."

"Bentwaters is a case of magical think-

ing—a situation where a bunch of people got excited about different things they correlated in their mind," says UFO investigator James McGaha, technical consultant to the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal and a retired Air Force pilot, who traveled to England, surveyed the area, and interviewed various people. "Consider these facts: On the night of December 25 to 26, at 9:10 p.m., Russian satellite Cosmos 746 reentered the atmosphere over England and appeared as a bright object. At 2:50 a.m., a fireball entered the atmosphere over Woodbridge. At 4:11 a.m., a British police car with a blue strobe light on top and other lights attached to the undercarriage responded to a telephone report

and was driving on the dirt roads through the forest.

"Halt's memo reports that on the second night, they saw two objects in the north, one in the south. On that night, three of the brightest stars were visible—Vega and Deneb in the north, Sirius in the south. And clearly, the strange red light mentioned on the audio tape is the Orford Ness Lighthouse beacon. Beyond that, the morning after the first night, British officers identified the indentations as rabbit diggings. The Geiger counter readings were of background radiation. Nothing appeared on radar that night, either, and no one in either base tower reported anything unusual. Furthermore, no civilians reported seeing or hearing anything." **DO**

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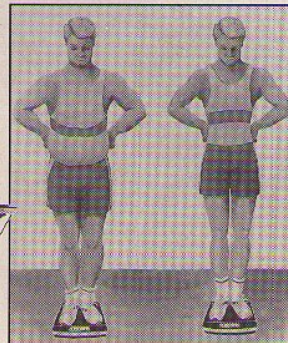
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The Great High-Rise

Abduction

spin you put on it, it's definitely the case of the century

It was cold and clear, about 3:00 a.m., when the car stalled near the South Street seaport in Manhattan. Glimpsing up, the passengers—a major political figure, who will remain unnamed, and two government agents—spied a glowing oval object hovering over a building a couple of blocks away. As lights on the heavenly vision changed from red-orange to a bright bluish-white, a woman in a nightgown floated out of a twelfth-story window and hovered midair. The awe-struck witnesses watched as the woman, surrounded by several small creatures, ascended effortlessly into the bottom of the craft. The object zipped over the Brooklyn Bridge and finally plunged into the East River. Or so the story goes.

ARTICLE BY PATRICK HUYGHE • PAINTING BY MASAHIKO FUJII

"It's an extraordinary case," says Budd Hopkins, a world-class modern artist who has recently become known for his books, *Missing Time* and *Intruders*, detailing his 18 years of investigation into claims that thousands of people have been abducted by UFOs. A trip to Hopkins' studio on Manhattan's West Side reveals the profound influence these so-called abductions have had on his art. Scattered around the room are colorful, profile-shaped paintings he calls "guardians" that evoke nothing if not the aliens in question. Indeed, as Hopkins describes his work, his dark, thick eyebrows dance with enthusiasm; these days, it is the bizarre tales of UFOs and the nasty creatures who inhabit them, plucking innocents from their homes in the middle of the night, that consume most of his time.

If Hopkins seems excited, he explains, it's because he has found a case that might convince the army of skeptics who have hounded him for years. Unlike the thousands of other abduction cases on record, he explains, this is the first time independent witnesses have come forward claiming to have seen the event take place. Even more significant, one of these witnesses is said, in the vernacular, to be a Very Important Person. "The implication," Hopkins speculates, "is that this was deliberate, a demonstration of alien power and intent."

Hopkins has never had trouble drawing dramatic conclusions about UFO abductions, a phenomenon that emerged, it should be noted, without him. The first bizarre story came to public attention in 1966 and involved the now-notorious New England couple, Betty and Barney Hill. Under hypnosis, the Hills recalled being snatched from their car and examined by small creatures aboard a flying saucer. But it would take another decade, a few more headline-grabbing abduction tales, and, finally, the television broadcast of the Hills' own story before tales of alien encounters became embedded in the popular consciousness at large.

The stage was now set for Hopkins to emerge as the leading authority on abductions. It happened in 1981 with the publication of his book, *Missing Time*, in which he suggested that the abduction experience was much more widespread than anyone had imagined. For Hopkins, the plight of the abductee became a personal crusade, and before long, he would be lecturing on the subject across the country, appearing

on one talk show after another, and finally writing *Intruders*, a 1987 best seller that was turned into a television miniseries in 1992. Clearly, no one has done more than Hopkins to bring this strange phenomenon to public awareness. Even more to the point, no one has had greater success in getting scientists and mental-health professionals to take a serious look at abductions.

So it's no surprise that when Hopkins began touting his latest case as the strongest evidence yet for UFOs, their alien occupants, and their systematic abduction of human beings, people listened. But as the pieces of the puzzle were revealed, critics began charging that rather than prove his point, Hopkins had fallen victim to the elaborate fantasy of a bored housewife or a complex hoax. Indeed, said his detractors, so outrageous was the tale and so fragile the evidence for it, it had backfired, destroying his credibility and bringing down his body of work like a house of cards.

"IT'S A CRAZY,
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POLITICAL FIGURES,
MIKHAIL GORBACHEV AMONG THEM."

The story certainly is a humdinger, with more twists and turns than California's Highway 1 and more mystery characters than a Le Carre spy thriller. "It's a crazy, endless saga," says Hopkins, including such elements as secret agents, attempted murder, and two high-level political figures, Mikhail Gorbachev one of them.

The central character in the case is Linda. She does not want her last name revealed. She lives in Lower Manhattan, and on the very hot spring day I went to meet her, I came to appreciate why the aliens had decided to grab her through the window. It certainly beats penetrating a locked gate and the scrutiny of a guard, then taking an elevator up 12 stories and winding your way through a corridor to her place. When I knocked on the door, I was greeted by an attractive, fortyish woman with brown, almond-shaped eyes and long, flowing brown hair. We sat down on her couch, and as her air conditioner blasted arctic air and she smoked a dozen cigarettes, I was treat-

ed to one mind-boggling tale.

It started early in 1988. Linda had just bought Kitty Kelly's biography of Frank Sinatra and another book, which she took to be a mystery. The other book was *Intruders* by Budd Hopkins. By the end of the first chapter, she was stumped: Aliens had left mysterious implants in people's brains and noses, and that last little bit bothered her. Thirteen years before, she had found a lump on the side of her nose and had gone to a specialist who said it was built-up cartilage left over from a surgical scar. But she had never had any such surgery, even as a child, she said. Linda then took my finger and put it on her nose: Yes, I could feel a very slight bump on her upper right nostril. But there had to be more than this, I thought. There was.

A year later, Linda finally contacted Hopkins, who decided to explore Linda's past with his favorite tool—hypnosis. "It felt kind of strange," Linda says. "I'm just a wife and mother. I'm just Linda. UFOs? Naw."

Hopkins says he learned otherwise. He regressed Linda to age 8, enabling her to recall an episode in which she thought she glimpsed the cartoon character Casper, of *Casper the Friendly Ghost* fame. But under hypnosis, her memory of Casper turned out to be a large, top-shaped object that she'd seen flying above the apartment building across the street from her childhood

home in Manhattan. Hopkins came to suspect that she had been abducted by aliens and by June of 1989 had invited her to join his support group for abductees.

"I remember sitting there bug-eyed listening to these people," says Linda. "I felt strange the first time, but after that I felt better."

Finally, on November 30, 1989, a very agitated Linda called Hopkins to report she had been abducted again. She had gone to bed quite late, at about ten minutes before 3:00 a.m., because she'd been up doing the laundry. Towels and blue jeans for four take eons to dry in her small dryer, she explained. Her husband, who normally worked nights, was on jury duty that week and so was home and asleep in the bedroom. She showered, got into bed, and lying on her back, clasped her hands and began reciting "Our Father" to herself, a habit she carried over into adulthood from her Roman Catholic upbringing. Then she felt a presence in the room.

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APRIL 5

9PM
ET/PT Aerosol nuclear decontamination. Doc Martins' sports shoes. Vespa scooters.

9:30PM
ET/PT Snowless ski jumping. Paper-thin bulletproof vests. 10 lb bridge that can support a train.

APRIL 12

9PM
ET/PT Telephone recording studio with legendary producer Phil Ramone and sax star Dave Koz. The Steadi-cam.

9:30PM
ET/PT Off-road wheelchairs. The defense industry takes aim at consumers.

APRIL 19

9PM
ET/PT The Hovercraft. Portable burglar alarm. Computer-designed socks.

9:30PM
ET/PT Inside the gambling industry's electronic surveillance system.

APRIL 26

9PM
ET/PT The flying car. 1930's film previews "the kitchen of tomorrow."

9:30PM
ET/PT "Moxy" - the live cartoon character. The advanced technology of the L.A.P.D.

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"I was awake but had my eyes closed," she recalls. "I was afraid. I knew it wasn't my husband; he was snoring away. Then I lay there wondering, *Did I lock the door? Is it one of the kids?*" She called out the names of her two boys and finally reached out for her husband. "Wake up," she said, "there's somebody in the room."

He didn't answer, and she began to feel a numbness crawl up from her toes. After months in the support group exploring her past abductions, she recognized what that meant. *It's now or never*, she thought and opened her eyes. At the foot of the bed, says Linda, stood a small creature with a large head and huge black eyes. "I screamed and yelled," she says, "and then threw my pillow. The creature fell back." After that, she has only fragments of conscious memory—a white fabric going over her eyes; little alien hands pounding up and down her back; suddenly falling back into bed.

It was a quarter to 5:00 in the morning when Linda jumped out of bed, ran into the kids' room, and discovered, she says, that "they weren't breathing." Hysterical, she retrieved a small mirror from the bathroom and placed it under their noses. Suddenly, a mist formed on the mirror, she says, and she heard her husband snoring in the other room. They were all alive. Linda, in shock, sat on the floor in the hallway between the two bedrooms until dawn. Later she called Hopkins.

Under hypnosis, Linda revealed that there had actually been five creatures in the apartment. They had led her from the bedroom through the living room and out a closed window, she declared, where, floating in midair, she saw a bright bluish-white light. She was afraid of falling and embarrassed, thinking her nightgown had gone over her head. She moved up into the craft and then found herself sitting on a table. The creatures around her, she says, were scraping her arms—"like taking skin samples," she speculates, and pounding with an instrument up and down her spine—all typical abduction fare, to say the least.

Quite atypical is what allegedly happened 15 months later. In February 1991, Hopkins received a typewritten letter from two people claiming to be police officers. Late in 1989, the letter said, the two had witnessed a "little girl or woman wearing a full white nightgown" floating out of a twelfth-floor apartment window, escorted by three "ugly but small humanlike creatures" into a very large hovering oval that eventually turned reddish orange. The object, the letter added, flew over their heads,

over the Brooklyn Bridge, and plunged into the East River. They wondered if the woman was alive, though they wished to remain anonymous to protect their careers. They signed the letter with first names only—Richard and Dan.

Hopkins was astonished. "I realized immediately that the woman they had seen was none other than Linda," he said. "The account seemed to corroborate the time, date, and details of her abduction. Here, finally, were independent, seemingly reputable witnesses to an abduction."

When Hopkins first called Linda to tell her, she replied, "That can't be possible." Then she wondered if she and Budd were the victims of a cruel joke. But all suspicions vanished one evening a few weeks later, she says, when Richard and Dan showed up at her door.

"Police," they announced. Linda looked through the peephole and saw two men in plain clothes flashing a gold badge. "So I let them in," said Linda, "and they looked at me kind of funny. When they introduced themselves as Dan and Richard, my stomach dropped to the floor." Both were tall, well-built, attractive men in their forties, she says. Dan sat on the couch, put his head in his hand, and said, "My God, it's really her." Richard had tears in his eyes and hugged her, expressing relief that she was alive.

"Budd had warned me not to discuss the incident with anyone," Linda says now, "so all I could do was tell them to talk to Budd."

In the year that followed, Linda claims, she had numerous encounters with the mystery duo—at bus stops, outside her dentist's office, even at church. Hopkins himself never had the pleasure of meeting the pair, though, he says, he did eventually receive three more letters from Dan and four letters and an audiocassette from Richard. In one letter, says Hopkins, Dan explained his need to remain anonymous: He and Richard were not New York City cops, he said, nor on that fateful November night had they been alone. They were, in fact, government security agents and had been escorting an important political figure, who they would not name, to a downtown heliport; suddenly their car's engine died and the headlights went out. They had seen Linda's abduction unfold after they pushed the car to safety under the elevated FDR Drive.

Dan and Richard just couldn't stay away. One morning, after Linda had walked her youngest son to the school bus at 7:15, she claims she was approached by Richard, who asked her to take a ride in his car. She refused, but Richard's grip firmed on her shoulder.

der. "You can go quietly or you can go kicking and screaming," Linda claims Richard told her. As he dragged her to the open rear door of his black Mercedes, he tickled her, Linda states. "That's how he got me in the car."

"They drove me around for about three hours," says Linda, "asking me all sorts of questions." Did she work for the government? Was she herself an alien? They even demanded she prove herself human by taking off her shoes. Aliens, they would claim in a letter to Hopkins, lacked toes. She called Hopkins as soon as they dropped her off at home.

"Hopkins told me to call the police," Linda now explains, "but I refused. Who would have believed me?" The notion of surveillance by Richard and Dan eventually spooked her so much that she quit her secretarial job and simply stayed home. To ease Linda's isolation, Hopkins found a benefactor who paid for Linda's limited use of a bodyguard so she could go out.

Unfortunately, the bodyguard was not around for what Linda says was her second major encounter with Richard and Dan. On October 15, 1991, Linda reports, Dan accosted her on the street and pulled her into a red Jaguar. As they drove along, he sometimes put his hand on her knee—"to distract me,"

Linda suggests, "from following the route to a three-story beach house which I assume was on Long Island." Inside, Dan started a pot of coffee and gave Linda a present: a nightgown, she says, "the kind a woman might wear if she didn't have any children, especially sons." Dan asked her to put it on so he could photograph her in it as she appeared mid-abduction, floating over New York. She refused but finally agreed to put it on over her clothes. As Dan's behavior became increasingly strange, she decided to flee, running out the door and onto the beach.

"Dan caught me and picked me up, shaking me like a toy," she says. There was mud on my face, so he dunked me in the water once, twice, three times. I don't think he was trying to drown me, but he kept me under too long." This behavior, which critics of this strange tale have termed "attempted murder," finally ceased. Instead, Dan pulled off Linda's wet jeans and, she says, pulled her down on his lap in the water, rocking her like a baby. Shortly after, Linda reports, "Richard showed up, apologized for Dan, and drove me home."

Linda went straight to Hopkins. "She left sand all over my house," Hopkins says. "A few weeks later, I received a

half dozen photographs of Linda, in the nightgown, running along the beach."

That November, the saga became stranger still. While lunching with Linda, a relative who was also a doctor insisted she go to the hospital to x-ray the lump in her nose. The x-ray Linda now presents shows a profile of her head; clearly visible is a quarter-inch-long cylinder apparently embedded in her nose.

"It was weird," says Hopkins' friend Paul Cooper, professor of neurosurgery at New York University, who has examined the x-ray. "I've never seen anything like it." But even Cooper admits the x-ray could have been faked by taping a little something to the outside of Linda's nose.

Moreover, as usually happens in UFO stories, this tantalizing bit of evidence vanished as quickly as it had appeared. Soon after getting the x-ray, Linda told Hopkins she'd awakened with a bloody nose. Under hypnosis, Hopkins says, Linda revealed that the aliens had again whisked her away. Later, with Cooper's help, Hopkins had further x-rays taken, but the implant was nowhere to be seen.

Meanwhile, another alleged witness to Linda's spectacular abduction came forward. That same month,

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Hopkins received a large manila envelope from a woman living in upstate New York. On the outside, in large letters, appeared the words, *Confidential, Re: Brooklyn Bridge*.

On the evening of November 29, 1989, the woman—Hopkins calls her “Janet Kimble”—had been in Brooklyn at a retirement party for her boss. When she headed home via the Brooklyn Bridge around 3:00 a.m., she told Hopkins, her car came to a dead stop in the middle of the bridge and her headlights blinked out. The same thing, she states, happened to the cars coming up behind her. Suddenly, she saw what she thought was “a building on fire” about a quarter of a mile away. The light was so bright that she had to shield her eyes, she said. Then she realized what she was seeing: Four “balls” had floated out of an apartment window and, midair, unrolled into three “rickets-stricken” children and a fourth, taller, “normal girl-child” wearing a white gown. “While I watched,” she wrote, “I could hear the screams of the people parked in their cars behind me.” The “children” were then whisked up into the object, whereupon it flew over the Brooklyn Bridge and disappeared when her view was obscured by a walkway.

Hopkins says he telephoned “Janet Kimble” immediately and later had lunch with her. The tale told by this “widow of about sixty who once worked as a telephone operator” corroborates stories told by Richard and Linda, he says, ruling out the possibility of a hoax.

In fact, if Hopkins is to be believed, another witness to the Linda abduction was actually the first. That person, he states, is a UFO abductee as well, a woman in her early thirties who claims to have been abducted from her Manhattan bedroom in the middle of the night. She consciously remembers being outside at some point, moving along the streets involuntarily, and seeing 15 to 20 other women all moving zombie-like toward a UFO on the banks of the East River.

When Hopkins tells me this, I can’t help but guffaw. He finds my reaction perfectly understandable. “What can I say?” he says. For Hopkins, who is in the midst of investigating another mass abduction in New York City involving a hundred humans, this woman’s story is only “a little more bizarre than most.”

In any event, says Hopkins, this woman at one point looks down the East River

and sees two other UFOs in the sky, one a bright orange object at the southern end of Manhattan, ostensibly the one that abducted Linda.

The two cases, if believed and taken in concert, shed an ominous light on the humorous name that some critics have bestowed on the Linda case: “Manhattan Transfer.” Were the aliens out that night abducting Manhattanites like Linda in droves?

By December of 1991, the end of Linda’s saga was nowhere in sight. She was now struggling with an obviously disturbed and persistent human named Dan, who, according to Richard, had been admitted to a “rest home.” At Christmas, she received a card and note from Dan. It was a love letter actually. He told her he planned to leave the “rest home” soon and asked her to pack her toothbrush—he was coming for her. He wanted to learn her alien ways and her special language. “You’ll make a beautiful bride,” he teased. Linda, however, was not amused.

“HE WANTED
TO LEARN HER ALIEN WAYS AND
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Dan apparently tried to get Linda in February of 1992, but she was rescued from this dragon by Richard, whom Linda now regards as a knight in shining armor. Linda says that Richard, upon returning from a “mission” abroad, had gone to visit Dan at the rest home, found him missing, and had come looking for him in New York. When he learned that Dan had prepared a passport for Linda and booked two tickets to England, he immediately sought out Linda and managed to spirit her away just in time.

Linda’s last contact with the aliens occurred a few months afterward. On Memorial Day 1992, she, her husband, two sons, and one of their guests all awakened at about 4:30 in the morning with nosebleeds. Hopkins says he has subsequently confirmed, through hypnosis, that the incident was UFO related. “I really don’t try to convince anybody,” says Linda, having come to the end of her story. “I don’t expect anyone to believe this because, to tell you the truth, if the shoe were on the other

foot, I wouldn’t believe it either. But it happened. It happened.”

If it really did, I thought, the independent witnesses would confirm it. The prize witness obviously was the VIP, and the word in the UFO community is that Hopkins thinks it was Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, secretary-general of the United Nations from 1982 to 1991. “I will not deny or confirm that,” says Hopkins. “I won’t say who he is, but I can say this: All the letters from Richard and Dan refer to the fact that there was a third man in the car. And he’s written one letter to me, which was signed, *The Third Man*. I can’t make the things he said public, though clearly he’s letting me know between the lines who he is.”

Actually, rumor has it that this third party may be central to the Linda case. According to anonymous sources close to Hopkins, Richard, Dan, and their passenger were *all* abducted on that fateful day of November 30, 1989, right along with Linda. Their delayed recall of this event supposedly would explain why it took 15 months for them to write to Hopkins, why they were so interested in Linda, and why they are so reluctant to come forward now.

But all that is *certain* about Pérez de Cuéllar is that he was in New York City on the days in question. Did he really witness the Linda abduction?

Joe Sills, spokesman for the secretary-general at the United Nations, was nice enough to check with the security people but came up empty handed. “No one that I spoke to,” he says, “was aware of him ever being in that part of town at that hour of the morning. It’s just not in the kind of schedule that he kept.” What’s more, he added, Pérez de Cuéllar could not have been heading for the heliport since he always went to the airport via limousine. U.N. spokesperson Juan Carlos Brandt checked with Pérez de Cuéllar directly. “He says he never witnessed any incident,” says Brandt.

And adding insult to injury, Hopkins can’t even prove that the two government security agents, Richard and Dan, are real. He has never met or spoken to them, and all efforts to identify them have proven fruitless. In March of 1991, for instance, Linda looked through six hours of clips of news programs showing security agents at events in New York City. The clips belong to one of Hopkins’ contacts in government law enforcement. Near the end of the six hours, while watching a network broad-

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identified as 'Dan.' Despite the fact that the images were taken from a distance, involved crowds and the bustling chaos that accompanies visiting dignitaries, she apparently had no trouble making her identification. Those who have viewed the tapes have seen a man who appears to be taking part in official business, and who is in no way out of place or unusual.

In the months that followed, Hopkins and Linda made the rounds with their pictures of "Dan" in hand. They went to United Nations security and the State Department, Secret Service, and Russian delegation offices in New York. At times, Hopkins and Linda would use a cover story so as not to arouse suspicion: "Sometimes we said we were husband and wife and that this was a friend we had met a couple of years ago in Cape Cod and he had said to look him up here when we came to New York," Hopkins explains. But the ploy didn't work. "I've been all over with these pictures," says Hopkins, "and nobody recognizes him."

Then there is the woman on the bridge, "Janet Kimble." She is a real person but apparently, after being ridiculed by her own family, wants no part of Hopkins' story. When Hopkins tried to arrange an interview for me, she told

him, "I can't help you anymore with this." The final independent witness is the woman up the East River who claims to have participated in the mass abduction of women that very night. But she's another abductee and not truly impartial in the matter.

With no independent witnesses willing to come forward, the case, not surprisingly, has come under intense criticism. Curiously, two of those most critical of the case initially became involved at Linda's request.

By early 1992, Linda was feeling so helpless at the hands of her human kidnappers that she decided to seek additional expert help. At the suggestion of New York journalist and UFO researcher Antonio Huneus, she contacted Richard Butler, a former law-enforcement and security specialist for the Air Force and a fellow abductee, whom Linda had met at Hopkins' support group. Butler met with Linda on February 1, 1992, and brought with him Joe Stefula, a former special agent for the U.S. Army's Criminal Investigations Command and current head of security for a drug company in New Jersey. During the meeting, Linda asked for safety tips on how to protect herself from the dangerous duo, and Butler and Stefula, in order to give useful advice, asked

Linda a few questions of their own.

Several months later, after Hopkins made the case public at the 1992 Mutual UFO Network annual meeting in Albuquerque, Stefula, Butler, and a friend of theirs, parapsychologist George Hansen, decided the case needed a thorough investigation and began poking around Linda's neighborhood. They spoke to the security guard and supervisor at Linda's building, went to the offices of the *New York Post* nearby, and simply interviewed residents to see if they remembered anything amiss. No one did.

Afterward, Hansen, already the author of a number of stinging critiques of both psi research and its critics, wrote a lengthy skeptical report. The central issue, say the skeptics, is the lack of large numbers of witnesses to this spectacular event. After all, New York never sleeps; there are people out and about even in the middle of the night. Why did none of the truck drivers at the loading dock of the *New York Post* just a short distance from Linda's apartment see this blindingly bright object? Why haven't all those other people whose cars were supposedly stalled on the Brooklyn Bridge come forward?

To such questions, Hopkins has a two-fold reply: "The unwillingness of people to report such fantastic experiences is

ARTICLE
BY JAMES OBERG

SOVIET SAUCERS

Day after day, the waves of UFOs returned to southern Russia. Cossacks on horseback saw them high in the evening sky. Pilots aboard commercial airliners and military interceptors chased and dodged them. Astronomers at observatories in the Caucasus Mountains noted their crescent shape and their fiery companions.



It was the fall of 1967, and the Soviet Union was in the grip of its first major UFO flap. The extraordinary tales, described on Soviet television, reported in Soviet newspapers, and analyzed in a private nationwide UFO study group soon took on a life of their own.



In one detailed account, an airliner crew from Voroshilovgrad to Volgograd, flight 104, insisted that a UFO had hovered and then maneuvered around their plane. According to Soviet UFO enthusiast Felix Zigel, who compiled such accounts, the plane's engines died and did not start up again until after the UFO had disappeared, when the aircraft was only a half mile high in the air.

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These tales and others were repeated in Western UFO books and presented as important evidence at UFO hearings in the United States Congress and in Britain's House of Lords. Then, as suddenly as it had started, the wave of Russian UFO sightings ceased. Private UFO groups were banned by the Soviet government, and the subject was dropped from the controlled media even as it spread wildly in the samizdat, the underground Russian press.

But the phenomenon was not forgotten. Years later, astronomer Lev Gindilis and a team of investigators from the Academy of Sciences in Moscow assessed Zigel's UFO files, analyzing statistics from what they said was "the repetitive motion" of the objects Zigel described. In 1979, the "Gindilis Report" was released and distributed around the world. It concluded that no known natural or manmade stimulus could account for these "anomalous atmospheric phenomena." Something truly extraordinary and truly alien must have occurred.

But it was too good to be true. Like many other official Soviet government reports, the Gindilis Report turned out to be counterfeit science. In effect, and probably in intent, it served to cover up one of Moscow's greatest military secrets, an illegal space-to-earth nuclear weapon.

What the witnesses really saw back in those exciting days in 1967 were space vehicles all right, but not from some distant, alien world. They were Russian missile warheads, placed in low orbit under false registration names and then diverted back toward the planet's surface after one circuit of the globe. As they fireballed down toward a target zone near the lower Volga River, they seared their way into the imaginations of startled witnesses for hundreds of miles in all directions.

Of course, U.S. intelligence agencies had also been watching the tests, and they weren't fooled by the UFO smoke-screen. Pentagon experts soon dubbed this fearsome new weapon a "fractional orbit bombardment system," or FOBS. Government spokespeople in Washington denounced it as a first-strike weapon designed to evade defensive radars. Since Moscow had recently signed a solemn international treaty forbidding the orbiting of nuclear weapons, the existence of this weapon (whose tests alone did not violate the treaty) was a glaring advertisement of contempt. So when Russian UFO witnesses concluded that they had been

seeing alien spaceships instead of treaty-busting weapons tests, Soviet military officials were all too willing to permit this illusion to prosper.

Twenty-five years later, with the FOBS rockets long since scrapped and the Soviet regime itself on the scrap heap of history, the now-purposeless deception has maintained a zombielike life of its own. Russian UFO literature continues to issue ever more glorious accounts of the 1967 "crescent spaceships." Mainstream Russian magazines, newspapers, and even museum exhibits contain fanciful drawings of such shapes. Zigel himself is revered as "the father of Soviet UFOlogy," an icon of reliability and authenticity.

But Zigel's and Gindilis's crescent craft are just one example of the ridiculous notions and outrageous fictions Russian UFOlogy has spawned. In 1977, for instance, Tass, the official Russian news agency, carried a dispatch from the northwest Russian port city of Petrozavodsk titled "Strange Natural

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SOME DISTANT,
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SOVIETS' SUPERSECRET
MILITARY COSMODROME AT PLESETSK."

Phenomenon over Karelia." Wrote local correspondent Nikolay Milov, "On September 20 at about 0400 a huge star suddenly flared up in the dark sky, impulsively sending shafts of light to the earth. This star moved slowly toward Petrozavodsk and, spreading out over it in the form of a jellyfish, hung there, showering the city with a multitude of very fine rays which created an image of pouring rain."

The "visitation" unleashed a torrent of rumors. People later reported being awakened from deep sleep by telepathic messages. Tiny holes were reportedly seen in windows and paving stones. Cars were said to have stalled and computers to have crashed, and witnesses smelled ozone.

Soviet UFO enthusiasts rushed to embrace the case. "As far as I am concerned," claimed science-fiction author Aleksandr Kazantsev, "it was a spaceship from outer space, carrying out reconnaissance." According to Dr. Vladimir Azhazha, "In my opinion, what was seen over Petrozavodsk was either a

UFO, a carrier of high intelligence with crew and passengers, or it was a field of energy created by such a UFO." Zigel, the dean of Soviet UFOlogists, agreed it was a true UFO: "Without a doubt—it had all the features."

Sadly, the cause of all this mindless panic was a routine rocket launching from the supersecret military space center at Plesetsk in northwest Russia. The multiengine booster's contrails, backlit by the dawn sun, seemed to split into multiple glowing tentacles.

In 1981, a midnight rocket launch from Plesetsk lit up the skies of Moscow itself and sent the capital city's residents into a blitz of unconstrained creativity. UFO expert Sergey Bozhich's notebooks contain reports of numerous "independent" UFO encounters during this ordinary launching. "Pilots of six civil aircraft reported either a UFO in flight or a UFO [attacking] their aircraft," he wrote. "At 1:30 a UFO attacked a truck along the Ryazan Avenue in Moscow." One witness even reported wak-

ing from a deep sleep to see a "scout ship" with a glass cupola and small alien pilot cruising down his street.

The pattern is clear. Time and again, secret launchings of Russian rockets have unleashed avalanches of classic UFO perceptions from the imaginative, excitable witnesses and their careless interviewers. And consistent with its origins, Russian UFO literature is still characterized by fantastic tales and an utter

lack of research into possible explanations. "I have no doubts" is the most common figure of speech in the lexicon of Russian UFOlogists, and they are doubtlessly sincere, if arguably deluded. "Are UFOs real?" one was asked not long ago by American documentary filmmaker Bryan Gresh. "My colleagues and I don't even think that's a question," he responded. "Of course they are real!"

This sort of quasi-religious fervor just helps to fuel the skepticism of the cautious observer. After all, if Russian UFOlogists cannot or will not recognize the prosaic stimulus behind these phony crescent UFOs of 1967 and the UFO "jellyfish" of 1977, they may be incapable of solving any of the other hundreds of ordinary (if rare) causes that account for at least 90 percent (if not 100 percent) of all UFO perceptions. Dozens of major stimuli, and hundreds of minor ones, are constantly giving rise to counterfeit UFO perceptions around the world. Filtering out the residue of true UFOs from the pseudo UFOs poses enormous challenges for investigators.

Most Russian UFOlogists appear unwilling to face this challenge.

And the writings of prominent Russian UFO experts give ample ground for more anxiety. Vladimir Azhazha, probably the leading Russian UFO expert of the 1990s, is an undeniable enthusiast of UFO miracle stories. Some years ago, his favorite Western UFO story involved a UFO attack on the *Apollo 13* space capsule, which he "disclosed" was carrying a secret atomic bomb to create seismic waves on the moon.

But it was carrying no such thing. The April 1970 explosion, which disabled the craft and threatened the lives of the three astronauts, was caused by a hardware malfunction. When challenged recently by UFOlogist Antonio Huneus, Azhazha made a candid admission: "When I gave the lecture, I was a teenager in UFOlogy and was intoxicated by the E.T. hypothesis and did not recognize anything else. I would retell with pleasure everything I read."

Supposedly reformed, Azhazha then published a new book with a glorious new Apollo-astronaut UFO story based this time on forged photographs published in American tabloid newspapers. The pictures show contrast-enhanced fuzzballs, photographic images that had been sharpened in the photo lab. A fabricated "radio conversation" in which the astronauts exclaim surprise at seeing alien spaceships in a crater near their landing site later appeared in another tabloid; it was patently bogus, too, based on grossly misused space jargon. The story was long ago abandoned by reputable Western UFOlogists, but Azhazha still loves it and presents it as true.

At a UFO conference in Albuquerque in 1992, Azhazha told astonished Western colleagues that he had proof that 5,000 Russians had been abducted by UFOs and never returned to Earth. When asked to defend this number, he disclosed that he took the reported number of ordinary "missing persons" in the entire Soviet Union, plotted the regions over which major UFO activity had been reported, and then allocated those population proportions of "missing" to the UFOs. It was simple, sincere, and senseless, but the embarrassed American hosts (who had paid his travel expenses) couldn't disagree too publicly lest their waste of money be obvious.

Russian UFOlogists claim to be careful. Azhazha himself has written: "Nothing on faith! One must check, check, and eleven times check in order to find

an error!" But he doesn't seem to know how, and neither do any of his colleagues. While their sincerity and enthusiasm are not in doubt, their judgment, balance, and accuracy should be.

Why are people like Azhazha the best that Russia can offer? Russians are heirs to a great, creative civilization, but they are also emerging from a social era that has had profound effects on their habits of thought. Today's Russians have lived in a reality-deprived and judgment-atrophied culture for generations. Once they were sufficiently brain benumbed by a repressive communist regime to accept any and all propagandistic idiocies fed to them, they were intellectually defenseless against infections of other brain bunk as well.

UFO enthusiasm prospers in this nurturing environment. And it's not just UFO sightings that get conjured up by this fuzzy thinking. Historical figures, preferably dead ones who cannot disagree, are now constantly being portrayed as "secret UFO believers."

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THE LECTURE, I WAS A TEENAGER IN
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AND DID NOT
RECOGNIZE ANYTHING ELSE."

For example, in 1993, a slick new UFO magazine called *AURA-Z* appeared in Moscow. Continuing the trend of tying now-dead space heroes to UFO studies, the magazine featured two separate interviews with contemporary experts concerning the role played by Sergey Korolev, the founder of the Soviet missile and space programs. It didn't bother the magazine at all that the two stories were utterly inconsistent.

In one article, rocket expert Valery Burdakov presented a detailed account of how back in 1947 Stalin had ordered Korolev to assess Soviet intelligence reports on the Roswell, New Mexico, UFO crash. Korolev had reported back that the UFOs were real but not dangerous, the article "revealed." Yet just seven pages earlier, another expert named Lev Chulkov had written: "As early as the beginning of the 1950s, Stalin ordered Korolev to study the phenomenon of UFOs, but Korolev managed to avoid fulfilling this task." Of course, both claims can't be true. Besides, Burdakov

was a recently rehabilitated political prisoner in 1947 and was thus hardly the type of trusted expert that Stalin would have consulted.

Behind all such distracting noise, the UFO problem remains a fascinating and elusive puzzle, worthy of serious research. But weeding out true UFOs from the overwhelming mass of "IFOs," or identified flying objects, is a difficult, time-consuming task, as Western UFOlogists have learned in the past half century. Their new Russian colleagues so far show no indication that they have even begun.

"I haven't seen too much effort at that job," admits Antonio Huneus, one of the West's most perceptive pro-UFO observers of Russian UFOlogy. "The Russians themselves keep knocking on my door," Huneus states. "They want to sell their stuff here." In fact, given today's economic crisis in Russia, thousands of people of all classes, but particularly from the military services, are desperately seeking—or deliberately creating—anything they can

sell to Western buyers with bucks. UFO files are one of the few exportable raw materials with a market in the West, so there should be no surprise that there are suddenly so many bizarre items now available and so few Russians willing to be cautious or critical about them.

If these Russian UFO delusions only affected their own research, the silliness would do no worldwide harm. But the intellectual infection has spread far beyond borders and polluted UFO studies in other countries as well. These new commercial conspiracies between Russian tall-tale sellers and Western tall-tale tellers in the entertainment and pseudodocumentary industry will make it much worse.

The more serious Western UFOlogists, for instance, are particularly embarrassed by their colleagues' naïve, unbounded enthusiasm for the 1967 "crescents" and the subsequent so-called Gindilis Report, with Soviet thermonuclear weapons tests masquerading as true UFOs. Dr. James McDonald, probably America's top UFO expert of the 1960s, testified that the crescents "cannot be readily explained in any conventional terms." Dr. J. Allen Hynek, dean of American UFOlogy in the 1970s, reviewed the sightings and crowed, "It becomes very much harder—in fact, from my personal viewpoint, impossible—to find a trivial solution for all the UFO reports if one weighs and considers the caliber of some of the witness-

es." They were scientists, pilots, engineers, and fellow astronomers, and Hynek was absolutely certain they couldn't have been mistaken.

Today's successor to McDonald and Hynek is retired space scientist Richard Haines, American director of the joint United States-Commonwealth of Independent States working group on UFOs, the Aerial Anomaly Federation. Concerning the 1967 sightings, he confidently wrote that "the reports represent currently unknown phenomena, being completely different in nature from known atmospheric optics effects or technical experiments in the atmosphere."

Another famous Russian pseudo-UFO case, called the "Cape Kamenny UFO," has long been foolishly championed by Western UFO experts. Top American UFOlogist Jacques Vallee cited this encounter in a 1992 book as one of the best in the world. His casebook coding scheme gave it the highest marks: "Firsthand personal interview with the witness by a source of proven reliability; site visited by a skilled analyst; and no explanation possible, given the evidence."

A graphic account of this UFO was given by American UFOlogist William L. Moore based on casebooks compiled by Zigel. "On December 3, [1967] at 3:04 p.m.," wrote Moore, several crewmen and passengers of an IL-18 aircraft on a test flight for the State Scientific Institute of Civil Aviation sighted an intensely bright object approaching them in the night sky." Moore reported that the object "followed" the evasive turns of the aircraft.

But years later I discovered that the aircraft, passing near Vorkuta in the northern Urals, had by chance been crossing the flight path of the Kosmos-194 spy satellite during its ascent from Plesetsk. The crew had unwittingly observed the rocket's plumes and the separation of its strap-on boosters. All other details of maneuvers were added in by their imaginations. Yet this bogus UFO story is highlighted as authentic by nearly every Western account of Russian UFOs in the last 20 years.

Of course, not all Russian UFO reports spring from missile and space events. Far from it! But those specific kinds of stimuli are extremely well documented, unlike other traditional pseudo-UFO stimuli such as balloons, experimental aircraft, military and police helicopters, bolide fireballs, and so forth. Thus, they can provide an unmatched calibration test for the ability of Russian UFOlogists to find solutions for these pseudo UFOs.

The Russian UFOlogists have failed. The ultimate test of the Russians' abil-

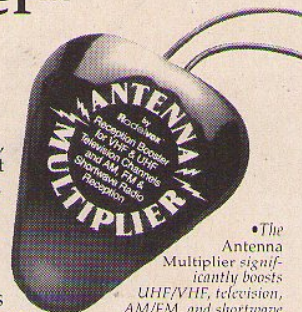
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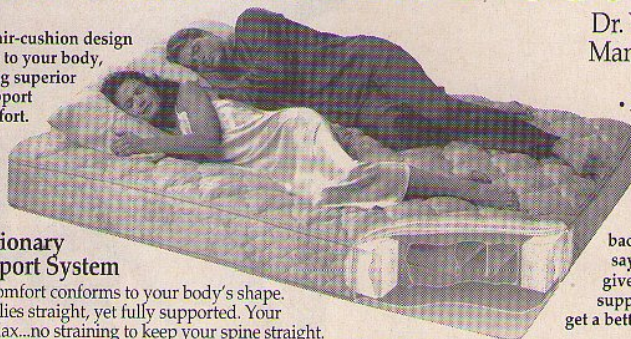
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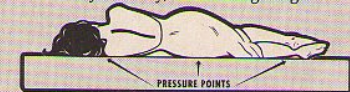
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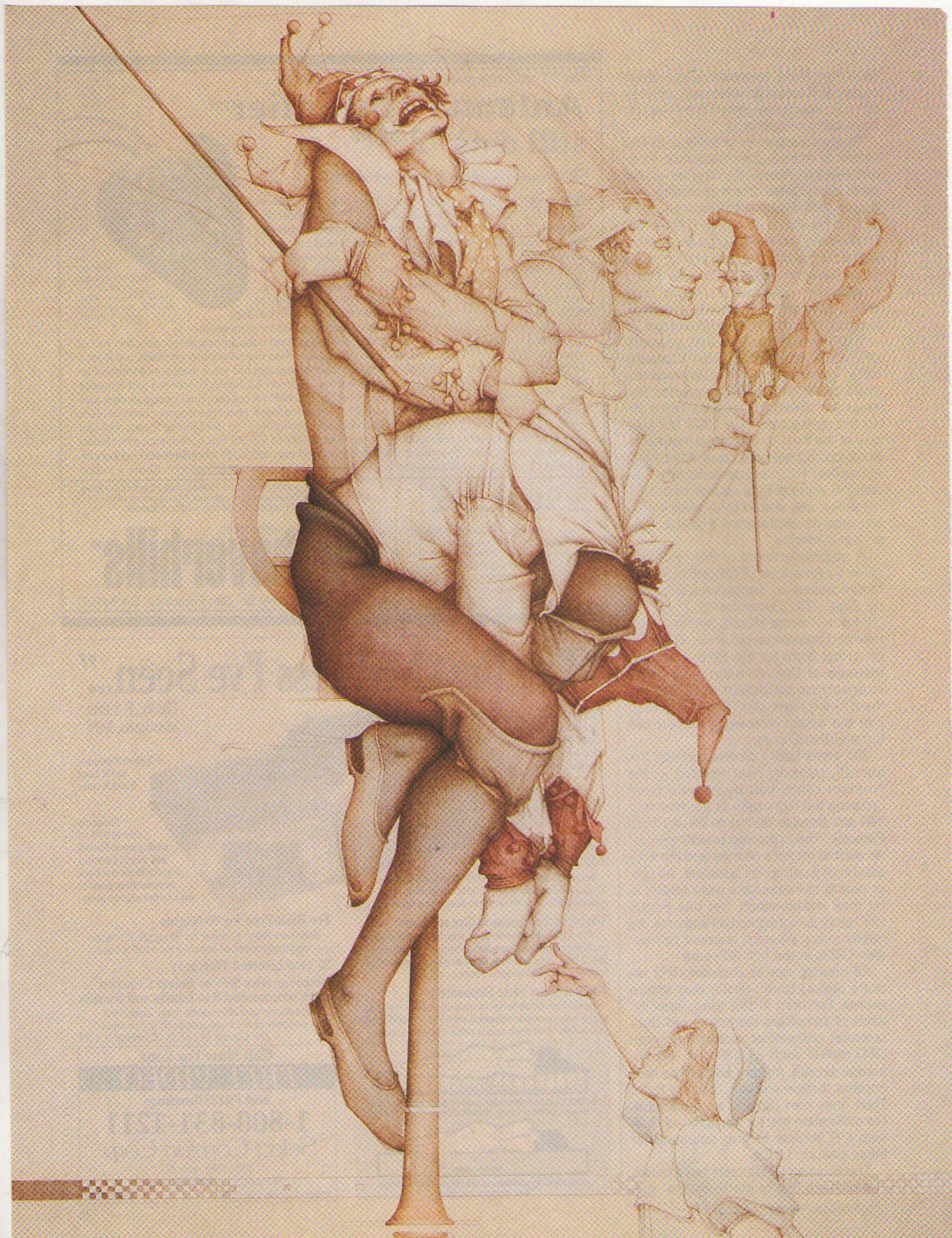
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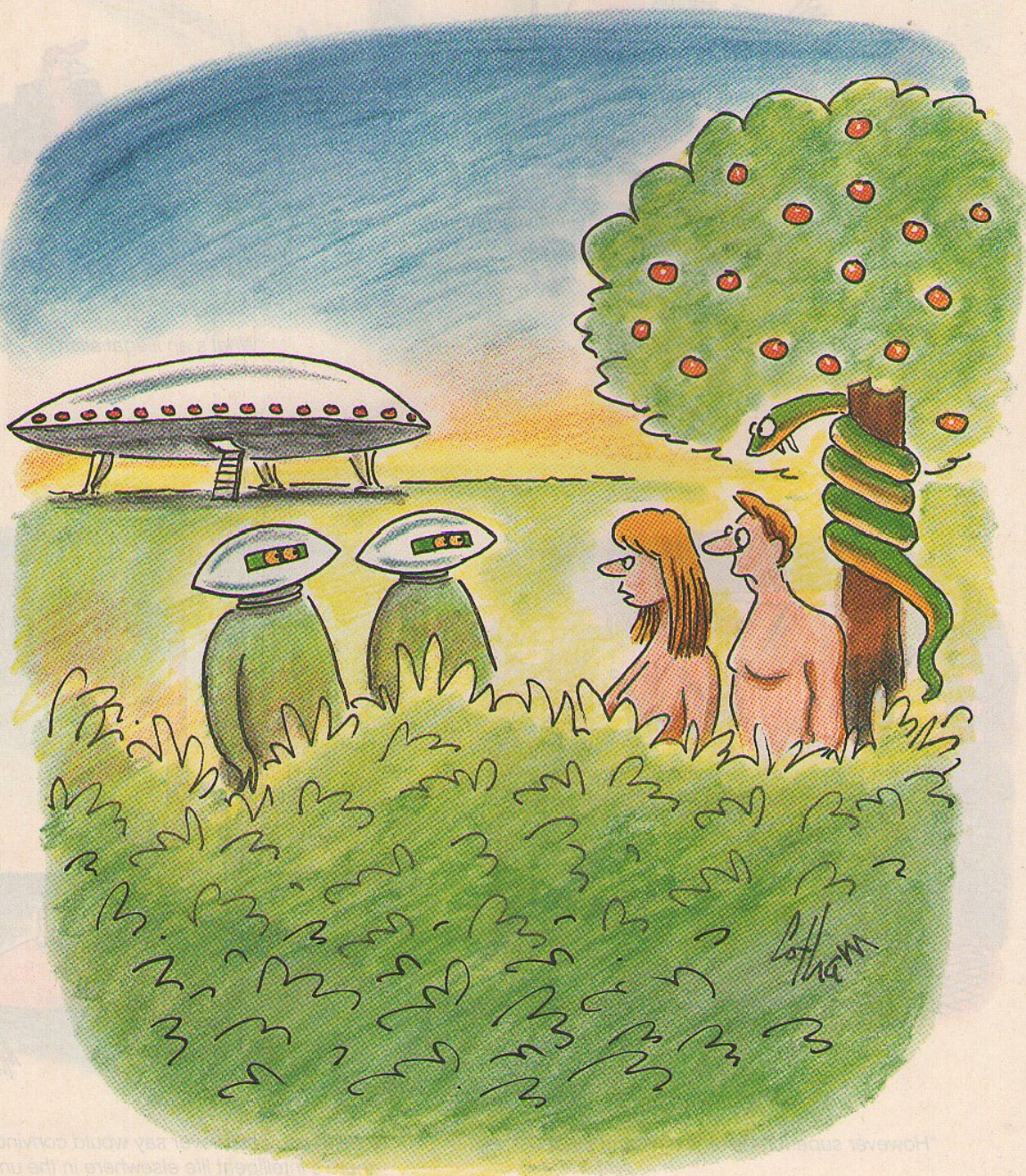
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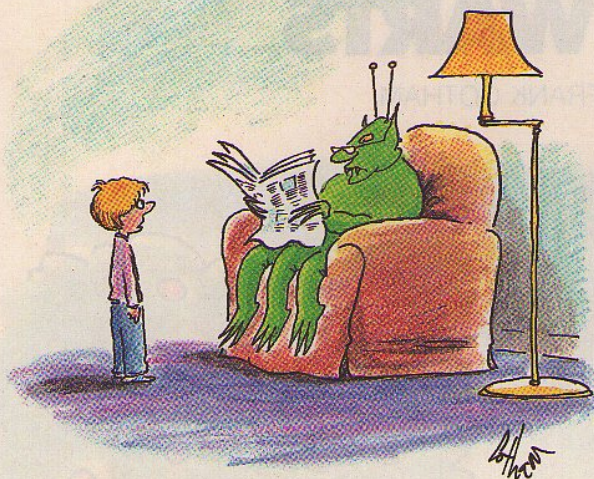
OMNI ASKS THE AGE-OLD QUESTION:
IS THERE INTELLIGENT LIFE ON EARTH, AND IF SO, WHERE?

STAR WARTS

SATIRE BY FRANK COTHAM



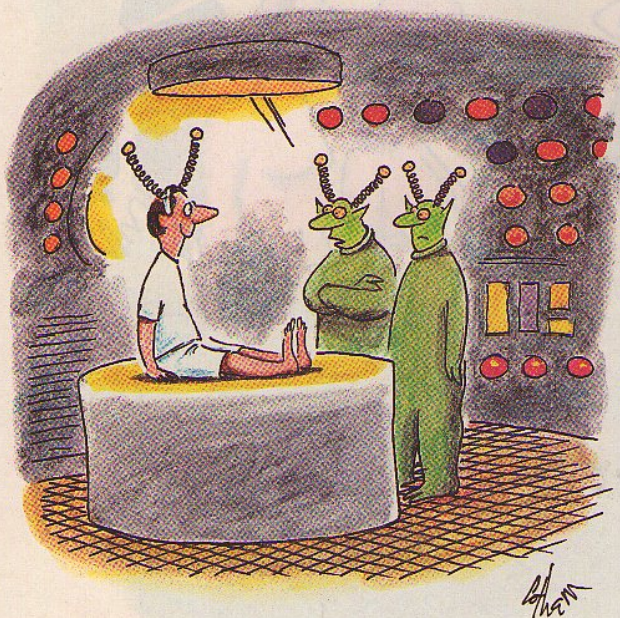
"Who in God's name are you?"



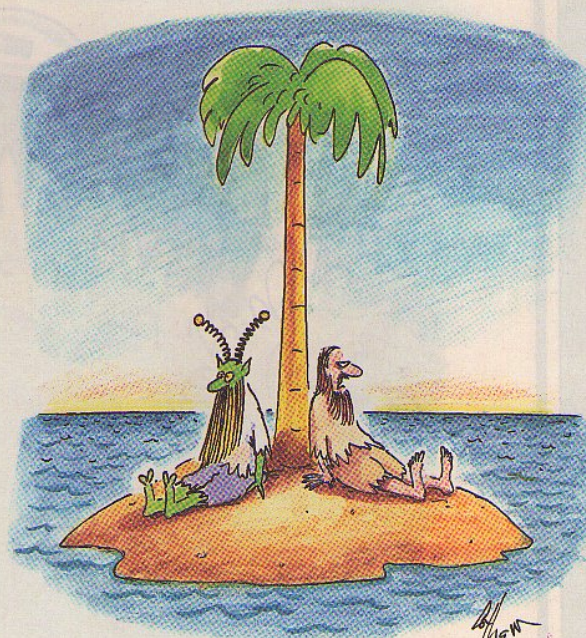
"All the kids say I'm adopted."



"What's an illegal alien?"



"However superior, there is a resemblance."



"Nothing you could ever say would convince me that there's intelligent life elsewhere in the universe."

Capo del Pentagono Il più controverso ministro della Difesa Usa è morto ieri. Si era pentito del conflitto

Addio a McNamara, stratega della guerra del Vietnam

WASHINGTON — È morto nel sonno, a 93 anni, per cause per ora imprecisate, Robert McNamara, il più controverso ministro della Difesa della storia americana, al cui nome è rimasta legata la guerra del Vietnam. Detta «McNamara's war» perché da lui personalizzata, la guerra, che scatenò ondate di antiamericanismo in tutto il mondo, si concluse nel '75 con una bruciante sconfitta per l'America e il Vietnam del Sud. Solo vent'anni dopo, nel suo libro di memorie «In retrospettiva: la tragedia e la lezione del Vietnam», l'ex ministro se ne dichiarò pentito. La sbagliammo, scrisse, puntando sui bombardamenti nel Vietnam del Nord, e rifiutando

vamo vincerla militarmente.

McNamara, analista di eccezionale carisma e intelligenza, l'enfant prodige dell'industria americana, fu strappato alla casa automobilistica Ford, di cui era a capo, dal presidente John

Kennedy, che voleva con sé «i cervelli più brillanti d'America», e fu nominato ministro della Difesa nel '61. In due anni, mandò nel Vietnam del Sud 16 mila soldati, e dopo l'assassinio di Kennedy nel

'63, si allineò al successore Lyndon Johnson, un uomo circondato da falchi della guerra fredda, che gli assegnò il compito di fermare la penetrazione comunista in Asia (la teoria del domino: «Se casca il Vietnam del Sud, l'intera regione finisce in mano ai rossi»).

Architetto del conflitto fino al '68, quando si dimise, McNamara lo gestì come avrebbe gestito un conflitto con l'Urss, confidando nella strapotenza Usa, e portando il numero delle truppe a 535 mila, sicuro del successo. Ma in una guerra che era in realtà una guerriglia fu la strategia errata. Nel libro di memorie, McNamara asserì di avere incominciato a nutrire dubbi già nel '66, ma di non essere stato capace di affronta-

Chi era



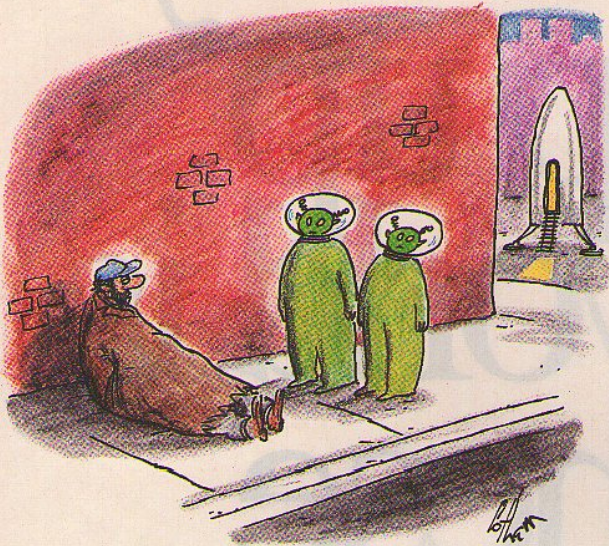
Robert McNamara è stato ministro della Difesa dal '61 al '68 (accanto con JFK) e architetto poi pentito della guerra del Vietnam

re Johnson, i suoi falchi e i generali al Pentagono. Se Kennedy non fosse morto, aggiunse, avremmo lasciato il Vietnam entro la fine del suo mandato.

Alla presidenza della Banca mondiale dal '68 all'81, McNamara ritrovò le sue radici liberal, dimostrandosi un apostolo degli aiuti al terzo mondo. Ma non riuscì mai a liberarsi dello spettro del Vietnam, che tentò invano di esorcizzare con il silenzio. I critici gli rimproverarono anche il fiasco dell'invasione di Cuba e la corsa agli armamenti atomici. Ricordandone la sua complessa figura, il Washington Post osserva tuttavia che si è chiusa un'epoca ed «è scomparso un monumento americano».

Ennio Caretto

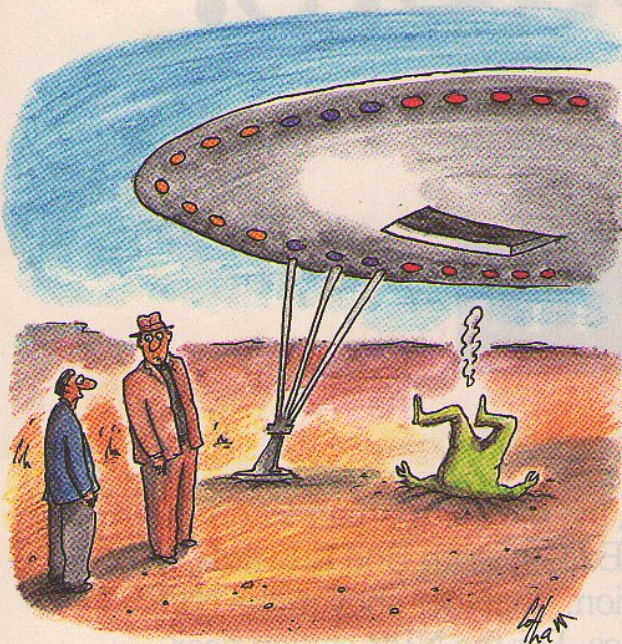




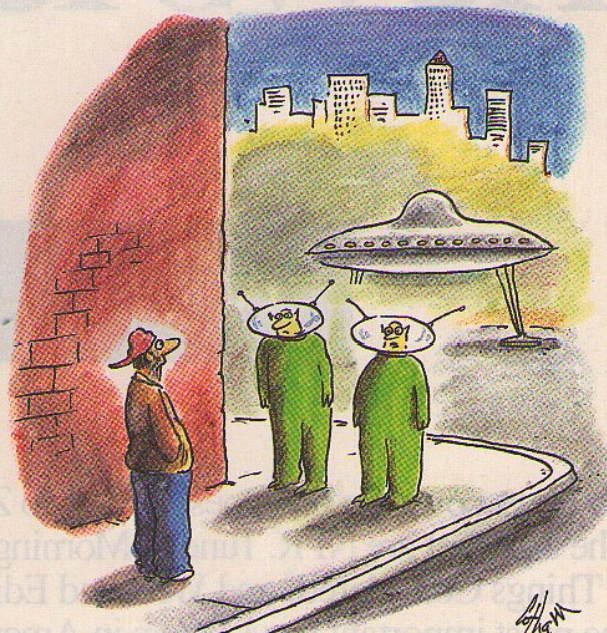
"Yeah . . . well I'm from the planet Earth!"



"Are you sure that this is the Great Lord of the Inter-Galactic Empire's gift to the peoples of Earth?"



"Obviously, they come from a planet with very little gravity."



". . . We come in peace."

Omni: Can we go on to future lives?

Weiss: People are doing this work, such as psychologist Chet Snow, president of the APRT [Association of Past Life Research and Therapy] society. I haven't found it, probably because I'm not looking for it. Mostly I'm doing therapy, and it seems to have some residue from the past. In this lifetime, we look back. At another level, as physicists tell us, there is no time. I tried going into the future with Catherine right off the bat, and she said it wasn't allowed. You can learn from the past, but the future, that's a series of probabilities. Parallel lives or universes, too, represent alternatives. But to me it's like climbing a tree: The higher up you get, the more committed you are to a particular branch. You're not on the other branches, but they're still there.

Omni: When you stumbled upon past-life therapy, were you seeking something different from life?

Weiss: I was not. I was chairman of psychiatry at Mount Sinai, the youngest professor of psychiatry ever at the University of Miami Medical School. I was publishing, getting national recognition in my field, earning a lot of money; my family life was going very well. In the Seventies, my wife and another couple wanted to see a psychic as a lark. I wouldn't go, saying, "Why waste your money? We can go to a movie, do something real." So they didn't go.

That's how closed I was, just floating along, and along comes something to turn you upside down. It didn't come out of a spiritual crisis but a time of comfort and affluence. The change really hinged on my conversation with Catherine, then subsequent patients during the next ten years, my reading, and meditation, too.

Omni: Why did you decide to go public with *Many Lives, Many Masters*?

Weiss: It was a difficult decision, and it took four years. Even after I finished treating Catherine, the tapes of those sessions collected dust in my closet because I feared for my reputation. But I kept finding people with these experiences, and fear of death seemed so pervasive, and here I was finding out that death is not what it appears. By going public, I'd reach more people, so I started feeling guilty that I had all this information and wasn't sharing it.

Most other doctors are quite reluctant to go public. Still, I've gotten more than 100 letters from physicians around the world who've done this work for up to 20 years, but in the privacy of their offices. They always preface it with, "Don't tell anyone, but . . ." Then out come these beautiful case histories. My youngest brother, an oncologist in St.

Louis, is finding mystical experiences, out-of-body experiences, with his dying cancer patients. A lot of doctors are having them but are afraid to talk about it. Some are in my new book.

Omni: Tell us about your past lives.

Weiss: The first time was when I got acupuncture massage for an old neck injury that was flaring up. I wasn't telling a soul about my research. I'd go into this very relaxed, almost meditative state, and about the fourth session, I saw an image of myself. I was taller, thin, wearing a multicolored robe, standing in a large geometric-shaped building. I knew I was a priest—very powerful, with the ear of the royal family. I had some psychic abilities and spiritual knowledge in that life, too, and was misusing it for personal gain and power. It was a very good life [laughter]. Easy, but wasted. The word *ziggurat* kept ringing in my head. I had no conscious memory of that word, although that doesn't prove I didn't come across it in college or something. I looked it up and found it's a word for architectural structures, temples of the Babylonian era.

Years later, I had a dream of being imprisoned in a European dungeon, my arm chained to the wall. I was being tortured for teaching my religious beliefs, which included reincarnation. As I died in that dungeon, I became aware of a message: "When you had the chance to teach, you did not." I knew that meant I should have taught about love rather than reincarnation and get killed for it. I went too far. The implication was, "Now you can have both."

Omni: Who are the Masters?

Weiss: Catherine described them as the source of information coming to her, and they would come *through* her to me. She had no memory of them when awakened from hypnosis, but when in between remembering past lives, she'd go into a state where the Masters' spirits would come. The knowledge was unlike her; even the phonetics, grammar, style were different. Other patients tell me things that are coming from a purer source, not contaminated by our brains. The personal information was the Masters' way of getting my attention. That was the turning point, when I started to believe it rather than think it was imagination or fantasy.

Omni: Is past-life therapy the next great leap for psychiatry?

Weiss: Some marvelous breakthroughs will come with the biological understanding of the brain, with understanding Alzheimer's, other memory disorders, schizophrenia, manic-depressive illness. Past-life therapy is also extremely important, and while it may not be the next great leap, it may be the most important. ☐

SOVIET SAUCERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 75

ity to perform mature, reliable UFO research is how they treat "the smoking gun" of Russian UFOlogy, the Petrozavodsk "jellyfish" UFO of 1977. The "jellyfish" was a brief wonder in the West before being quickly solved (by me) as the launch of a rocket from Plesetsk. Western UFOlogists readily accepted the explanation, but now it turns out that Russian UFO experts never did. They have assembled a vast array of miracle stories associated with the event, including reports of telepathic messages and physical damage to the earth.

But all this proves is that ordinary Russians love to embellish stories and that Russian UFO researchers haven't a clue on how to filter out such exaggerations from original perceptions. If they cannot do it for such obviously bogus UFOs as Petrozavodsk, how can they be expected to do it for less clear-cut ones?

If the UFO mystery is to be solved, there is adequate data from the rest of the world outside of Russia. Serious UFOlogists will have to quarantine the obviously hopelessly infected UFO lore from Russia and disregard it all. Some valuable data might be lost, but the crippling effect of unconstrained crackpottery would be avoided. Every decade or two, the question can be reconsidered with a simple test: Do leading Russian UFOlogists still insist on the alien nature of the 1967 crescent UFOs and the 1977 "jellyfish" UFO? If so, slam the door on them again.

Yet the temptation may be too great, especially for those who are into what I call the "fairy tale mode" of modern UFO study—those who believe the best cases are ones that happened long ago and far away, and thus are forever immune from prosaic solution. Russian UFO stories have turned out to be exactly those kinds of fairy tales.

And if the purpose of modern UFOlogy is only mystery worship and obfuscation, only mind-boggling tall tales and mind-stretching theorizing, then it will continue to feed on the baseless bilge coming out of Russia while being insidiously and unavoidably poisoned by it. The reality test, then, is not of Russian UFOlogy, which has already failed, but of non-Russian UFOlogy, where the issue remains in doubt. ☐

Editor's note: James Oberg, author of Red Star in Orbit and many other books, is an internationally recognized expert on the Soviet space program.

Abduction

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 67

not new. People do not like to be ridiculed," he says. Then there's the invisibility issue, "which just seems to be part of the phenomenon. Many people who you think should have seen these things just don't," Hopkins explains.

But Hopkins can't explain everything. For instance, how could "Janet Kimble" know that the words *Brooklyn Bridge* written on the outside of her envelope would attract Hopkins' attention unless she knew or was related to one of the people in the Hopkins support group, all of whom had heard about the case? The answer, replies Hopkins, is ridiculously simple: "She saw the abduction from the Brooklyn Bridge and thought that the others who had been stalled on the bridge that night might have contacted me about it."

But Butler says the likelier explanation is that Linda fabricated the whole story after reading *Nighteyes*, a science-fiction novel by Garfield Reeves-Stevens published in April of 1989, just months before her alleged abduction. The novel charts the abductions of an FBI team staking out a beach house in California while a mother and daughter undergo a series of abductions in and around New York City. It concludes with an apocalyptic finale. Butler claims that Linda was very intrigued when the book was brought up at the Hopkins support-group meetings. "I guarantee you that's where she got the basis for her story," he says.

Butler admits the book's storyline is different from Linda's but says there are too many parallels to be coincidence. Both Linda and the novel's Sarah were abducted into a UFO hovering over a high-rise apartment building in New York City. Linda was kidnapped and thrown into a car by Richard and Dan; one of the novel's central characters, Wendy, was kidnapped and thrown into a van by two mystery men. Dan is supposed to be a security and intelligence agent, while one of the book's central characters is an FBI agent. Both Dan and an agent in the novel were hospitalized for emotional trauma. Both Linda and the novel's Wendy were taken to a "safe house" on the beach. The list of such parallels goes on and on.

"But similarity does not prove relationship," replies Hopkins. Without an important political figure witnessing the abduction—the very essence of the

Linda case, he notes—the comparison with the book is meaningless.

Hopkins is not alone. Walt Andrus, international director of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), is "absolutely convinced the case is authentic." And David Jacobs, a history professor at Temple University and another researcher on the abduction scene, says the critics debunking the case have twisted the facts. "Over the past several years, I have been a confidant of Hopkins' and, at times, of Linda's. I can tell you that when Hopkins' report comes out, the inaccuracy of the critics will be apparent and the case will stand or fall on its own merits."

For Hansen, of course, those merits are slim. And, he says, the hoaxing he believes occurred is the least of it. "For me," he says, "the worst infraction is the reaction of the leadership of UFOlogy. I think this has given us great insight into the mentality—and the gullibility—of Budd Hopkins, Walt Andrus, and David Jacobs, the people who really con-

against the government. She was not, she said: "I'm a Bush Republican."

When I called the Secret Service about their investigation, I was referred to Special Agent James Kaiser, media representative in the New York field office. After reviewing the file on the case, titled "Special Agent Alleged Misconduct, February 10, 1993," Kaiser told me that Linda "was, in fact, interviewed at our office, and it was determined that her allegations regarding U.S. Secret Service agents having any contact with her whatsoever prior to that day were unfounded and baseless. It never happened. She may have been mistaking us for some other agency or organization. Case closed."

The case is also closed as far as Hansen, Stefula, and Butler are concerned. They truly believe that Linda is involved in a hoax. "I think she started out with a small lie," speculates Hansen, "a tall tale that grew in the three years that followed. She's been a typist and temporary secretary, so she has had access to a lot of different type-

writers undoubtedly. It would not surprise me if there were someone else hoaxing Hopkins as well."

Hopkins flatly rejects the hoax scenario. "An efficient hoax has a minimum of moving parts," he says. "You don't want to go into too many details. This has more moving parts than one could possibly imagine."

As for Linda, when asked if she had made up this

whole scenario, she replied simply, "No. How could this be a hoax? There are too many people involved. In fact," she added, "I take the suggestion as a compliment. They must think I'm pretty intelligent to pull off such a thing."

Some details of the case frankly do make me suspicious. For one, the drawings of the abduction that Hopkins received from Richard and the woman on the bridge not only look like they might have been prepared by the same person, despite the stylistic and perspective differences, which Hopkins has duly noted, but more importantly, both were done in crayons and used the same colors.

What's more, to actually meet Linda and hear her talk is to be transported to a world where reality is inverted, where all we have ever known is flipped on its head. Strain your ears, and you can almost hear the chords from *Twilight Zone* kick in as the underlying chaos of the universe takes control. Fact is, outrageous as I find Linda's story, Linda herself seems sin-

"THE CENTRAL ISSUE, SAY
THE SKEPTICS, IS THE LACK OF LARGE NUMBERS
OF WITNESSES TO THIS
SPECTACULAR EVENT. AFTER ALL, NEW YORK
NEVER SLEEPS. EVEN IN
THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, PEOPLE ARE OUT."

trol much of what people actually read about UFOs."

Hansen is particularly upset that, given charges of kidnapping and attempted murder, the leadership did not go to the police. "I recognize there is government cover-up on UFOs," he says, "but covering up a so-called attempted murder and kidnapping, as these guys apparently say they've done—that's quite something else."

Hoping to right the wrong, Hansen has, in fact, sent a letter to the inspector-general's office, Department of the Treasury, requesting that Linda's claims of kidnapping and attempted murder by federal agents be investigated. In February of 1992, the Secret Service contacted Linda and she and Hopkins went down to their World Trade Center offices to speak to Special Agent Peggy Fleming and her supervisor. Hopkins and Linda told Fleming the story and explained that they didn't know who Hansen was or why he was involved. Linda also objected to what she perceived as Hansen's insinuation that she was

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cere. Her emotions—fright, anxiety, and anger—appear genuine.

I'm not alone in these impressions. John Mack, a professor of psychiatry at Harvard University Medical School, whom Hopkins confided in as the story unfolded and who now knows Linda well, insists that "there is nothing unauthentic or devious" about her.

Gibbs Williams, a New York psychoanalytic psychotherapist with a quarter century of experience, has tested Linda and also dismisses any notion that Linda might be hoaxing the whole affair. "You would have to have the kind of conspiratorial mentality of Richard Nixon and be able to think sixty-two moves ahead," Williams says. "Quite frankly, Linda doesn't appear to have that kind of mind; she does not have that kind of abstracting capacity." He notes further that her emotive capacity—her anger, crying, and tendency to get carried away—is not consistent with the psychopathic cool mentality of the hoaxer and liar. "My conclusion," he says, "is that from her perspective, she is telling her truth."

Perhaps Jerome Clark, vice president of the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) and editor of the *International UFO Reporter*, sums up the controversy best: "This is an absolutely extraordinary claim, and the evidence that you need to marshal to support such a claim simply is not there."

Hopkins promises it will be when his book appears. Until then, Linda stands alone, ambivalent about her fame. On the one hand, she seems to revel in the notoriety. She attends national UFO meetings obviously dressed to impress. "To tell you the truth, it wouldn't be that bad if I didn't have a family," she admits to me.

Yet she also feels victimized. "There are a lot of Italian Americans and Chinese in my neighborhood, and many of them even laugh at joggers," she says. "Imagine if anyone in the area heard that I was abducted by aliens."

"Worst of all," she continues, "those critics took away the safety of my family by taking my real name and publishing it. We are sitting ducks for any crackpot in the UFO community. They know where I live. They know what I look like." She has already taken her name off her intercom system, and she fully expects to move when Hopkins' book on the case comes out. "I don't know what's worse," she says finally, "what Richard and Dan did, what these three stooges from New Jersey did, or what the aliens did." Or what Hopkins has done, I might add. After all, he promised so much and has delivered so little.

Poor Linda. ☐

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Why Did?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 80

The clown face overhead suddenly straightened to the vertical. Its eyes rolled and the mouth opened. "Yum Yum Yum!" said a voice over the P.A. system. "Yum Yum Yum!"

"Lunchtime," said Beemer. "Want to join them?"

"I've already eaten," said Seeker.

From the far corners of the grounds, people walked toward the house. Some had hobbling steps. One walked but his arms didn't swing with his steps; they remained at his sides. There were six or eight women. A microcephalic in a spotted blue dress with her hair in a bow came up and hugged Beemer, then went inside. An old man dressed like the Little King in a tiny child's pedal car raced up to the steps, hopped out and ran through the double doors.

The lone boy stayed out in the field.

"Those that don't want to eat don't have to," said Beemer. "The cooks leave 'em sandwiches and stuff. Not your pickle loaf or baloney, either."

"How do you choose who stays here and who doesn't?"

"I don't. The Little Moron does."

"He chooses them?"

"He'll let me know he wants to go somewhere. We'll go. One in a thousand sometimes. We'll go ten places, nothing. Eleventh place he gets out of the car, walks right up to someone, or they come up to him. He breaks out in a big smile. That's the one."

"And you take procedures to get them here?"

"Yep."

"Don't you find that a little . . . arbitrary?"

"Beats me. It's worked every time."

"All right. You've been here twelve years. How many pa— guests have died?"

"None."

"How many escaped?"

"None."

"Can you explain this?"

"They're happy here. Why would they want to leave?"

"What kind of therapy do you use?"

"None whatsoever."

"None?"

"Okay," Beemer paused, "happy therapy. They get to do pretty much whatever they want to do. If they're happy, they're okay."

The man in the Koko suit came by. His face was covered with clown white. His baggy black suit had big white buttons on it, and his pointed hat had three white puffs down the front. He walked over, picked up Beemer, carried him to the stairs and set him down. Then he went inside.

"He wants a step-father," said Beemer.

"Who?"

"Elwood Jr. The Little Moron."

"He doesn't talk," said Beemer. "Most of them can't, or won't. Elwood can write though; mostly they're little rebuses or riddles that I can make out. Or he'll take me and show me. Sometimes it's hard. But he doesn't ask for much, and not often. I can show you his room, if you want me to, while he's eating. It'll give you some idea."

They went upstairs. There was a long hall with bedrooms off each side. They came to one. Outside was a pile of hay. Beemer opened the door. In the

row pointing toward the bottom and a question mark.

"Oh, that's for me," said Beemer. He studied it a moment, then drew a picture: the word NO, a comma, an arrow pointing toward the bottom of the page, and a waterfowl of some kind.

"What's that?" asked Seeker.

"That was an easy one," Willard Beemer said. "He wanted to know how you got down off an elephant. I said, you don't get down off an elephant; you get down off a goose."

Seeker stared at him a moment.

"You're telling me he thinks on a tertiary conceptual, level?"

"No. No. He thinks on a literal level. His father, Elwood Sr., never could figure out a damn thing he was trying to do, because *he* thought on a tertiary level all the time. Me and my father could figure out pretty much everything, cause we didn't. There are two or three of these things I still can't answer, though."

"Have you ever had him tested? Or any of them?"

"Tested for *what*? Like I said, if Elwood, Jr., wants them here, that's good enough for me. Come on. Let's go outside again. You see how he lives here."

Outside, they walked up the drive. The kid who had been in the wheat (or whatever-it-was) field was gone now. The clown head on the house was immobile.

"See, what we got here is like people coming to visit

who never leave. That's the best way I can describe it. The help comes here and takes care of them and leaves at night. Nobody comes to visit, because most of them don't have *anybody*. We're not trying to put anything over on anyone."

Then Beemer stopped. "Just remembered one for Elwood Jr.," he said. He took a piece of paper and drew on it: ?, then a baby, ? NO, then another baby. He put the paper in a crack in one of the wood columns of the portico. The clown head above the porch began to move. "Ha Ha Ha!" it said, its tinny voice echoing over the grounds, "Ha Ha Ha!"

"Playtime," said Beemer. "They'll all be coming out again."

"Mr. Beemer," said Seeker. "I'm not going to advise you on how to run your business, or to circumvent the laws. But you'll have to get at least a private facility license. You'll have to get a physician or psychiatrist to apply for you. I understand your care and concern. But suppose something happens to you

"THERE WAS A
BED WITH SPRINGS STICKING
OUT ONE END;
ON THE WALL WAS A CALENDAR
WITH SOME
OF THE NUMBERS MISSING."

center of the floor was a carpet with a hole cut in it. There was a bed with springs sticking out one end; on the wall was a calendar with some of the numbers missing. On the other side above the wash basin was a medicine cabinet with a pair of padded slippers on the floor in front of them. At an open window was a box of clocks, and there was another pile of timepieces under the desk in the corner. In another corner was a refrigerator. Beemer opened it. There was no shelves inside. There was a second handle so it could be opened from the inside.

"He thinks of me as his father, sometimes," said Beemer. Seeker didn't understand the reference but said nothing.

At the bottom of the refrigerator was a sack of fish with their noses cut off. On the wall above a chair was a huge clock. On the wash basin was a hairbrush and a box of candy bullets.

There were several sheets of paper on the desk. One was a picture of an elephant with a howdah on it and an ar-

or Elwood Jr? It could be chaotic for everyone involved, especially with the three housing developments going up nearby. They're even thinking of putting in a new golf course over there. If something should happen—I'm thinking of your pa—guests here. There needs to be some supervision, some treatment program." He paused.

"I'm not saying this officially. Plenty of medics will put their names on an application blank for a fee and not bother you at all. I'd like you to find one who does care, who can see what you've done here—maybe there's something medicine can learn from it."

"I didn't do it. The Little Moron did."

"Well, what's been done here, then. It's hard to believe you've managed for a dozen years."

"We didn't manage, Mr. Seeker. We're here. This is what we are, always will be."

"I'd like to believe that, too. But get a psychiatrist to apply for you. Have him take an active part so nothing goes wrong."

As they were talking, Seeker watched the guests coming out from lunch. The Little King came out and jumped in his pedal car and tore off up the driveway, knees like blurs. Elwood Jr. stopped at the porch post, took out the piece of paper. He wrote something on it, put it back in the crack and walked toward the thicket with a book in his hand. Seeker watched him sit down, place the book in front of him, open and stare at it.

Beemer followed his gaze. "It's fall," he said, as if by way of explanation. The Little Moron continued to stare at the book all the time they walked back to the department's car.

The man still stood on the porch watching the car, his head moving back and forth. The driver, reading a magazine, paid no attention.

"We can handle almost anything," said Beemer. "One of our guests, when we found him, had been shot in the back of the head. Went right through the corpus callosum and out the top. We got no idea who he is, but that's him out yonder with the chickens at the rabbit hutch. He's been here since almost the beginning."

"I'll turn in my report on the place," said Seeker. "We'll send a team out next week to see if there are any modifications needed to bring it up to state standards. Meanwhile, you should shop around for a resident psychiatrist."

"Money's no object," said Beemer,

shrugging. "Just the idea's not to my liking."

Willard went to the post while Seeker put the briefcase in the back seat. Beemer unfolded the paper and smiled, showing it to Seeker.

? then baby NO then baby?

under it was drawn:

= then a very tiny cross mark.

Seeker said nothing about the paper, then: "I'll be back after the team. It's been a pleasure talking to you, Mr. Beemer. Please remember what I said."

"I will. Goodbye."

The car started up the driveway. Seeker watched the boy in the field, the giant man near the chicken yard, Elwood Jr. on his swing, still staring at the open book before him.

Back at the house, the big clown head laughed its scratchy laugh again.

Beemer hired Dr. Winfred Rance.

She called Seeker a few months into her residency.

"BEEMER FOLLOWED
HIS GAZE. THE LITTLE MORON
CONTINUED TO
STARE AT THE BOOK ALL THE
TIME THEY
WALKED BACK TO THE CAR."

"I've never seen a smoother-running place in my life," she said. "And Beemer doesn't do anything, like he told you. It's all Elwood Jr. I've seen just about everything in my time, but nothing like him, or his effect on the others around him."

"I'm glad you're taking such an interest in their—somewhat unusual—procedures," said Seeker.

"I'm beginning to think Elwood Jr. likes me," she said, sounding unprofessional for the first time since Seeker had known her. "He's started leaving those little puzzle things for me. The ones for me have the stick figure of a girl at the top; Beemer's don't. Mine at first were easy, then they got harder. I don't think he's testing me or anything, I just think that's the way they come to him. He usually leaves them in the door handle of my car."

Seeker remembered Elwood Jr. in his swing, staring at the open book's pages in front of him, as if waiting for something to happen. "It's fall" Beemer had said as if by way of explanation.

"I also want to talk to Holden a little. No prying. It's just that he doesn't seem like the others at all."

"I'm glad it's working out well," said Seeker. "I'll be up for a visit in—" he glanced at his calendar, "—the customary six-month inspection time."

"I'll keep you informed," said Winfred.

He opened a letter from Beemer that arrived about three weeks later.

Dear Doc—

Thanks for putting me on to Winfred. She's a corker, and most of the time you wouldn't even know she was here. I think she's gonna get a big fat article out of the Democritus System, as she calls it. Okay by me.

Like I said I was pretty peeved at those realtor assholes when they sold all that land around me; I woulda been glad to buy it up myself, but somebody in the Chamber of Commerce had dropped dead or something, which led to all this.

But it did turn out okay 'cause we got Winfred.

Thanks again Doc.

Your Pal,
Willard Beemer

P.S. I think Elwood Jr. likes her, too. But I can tell he's getting antsy again, more than usual; that probably means we'll go get some more guests soon.

"They've been gone two weeks," said Winfred, on the phone. "I'm not quite sure what was going on with Elwood Jr.—neither Willard nor I got any puzzles from him for the last week they were here, before he took Willard out to the car that morning two weeks ago. He seemed, well, troubled."

Seeker wondered, for an instant, how you could tell if someone whose mind was a rebus was having a mood swing.

"I've often wondered," said Seeker, "what would happen if Elwood Jr. couldn't tell the difference between, let's say, alternative thought patterns, and perhaps, those of a sociopath . . ."

"His sense hasn't failed him yet," Winfred laughed. "And you know what? I think if someone like that did end up here, they might just cure themselves."

"Are you losing your objectivity, Winfred?"

"Well, just kidding, sort of. Or maybe I'm gaining a new kind of objectivity. Hold it!—speak of the devil. Beemer and Elwood Jr. just pulled up

in the driveway. Looks like they've got . . . a very old geezer and, and . . . a young girl with them. I'll see what's up and call you back later."

The Little Girl:

I had such a *pretty* grandmother! That was after all the trouble with my mother and father and the spelling-bee medal. My grandmother was so nice so long to me. Then she told me that we had to move far away, and that I was going to have to go to one of those schools where you sit in church and wear a plaid dress, and I asked her *please* not to do that, but she said it was *best* for me. I was so unhappy for a while. Then I begged and pleaded, and was just so nice for my grandmother, but she still said we couldn't stay where we were. So then I played with my jacks on the stairs, and played with the tacks on the runner carpet, ever so little at a time, and a little more each day, and then one morning when we were ready to go out shopping for new suitcases for the trip, I went up to help my grandmother down the stairs.

And then I was so *unhappy* for the longest time, because I used to have a *pretty* grandmother.

Dr. Rance sat at her desk.

A shadow fell over it.

She looked up. It was Holden. He never left his small patch of grain field from sunup to sundown, except when it was raining. He rarely ate with the others and stayed in his room at night. "Yes Holden?" she asked.

He stared at her a moment, then looked left and right. He started to form words, then quit.

"Is there something wrong?" she asked.

"That new little Rhoda girl," he said. "She's a goddamn phony and all."

Then he left.

Dr. Rance sat at her desk a while, then went to look out the window. Holden was already back in his patch, looking far out over the hills like he always did.

She wondered if she imagined it. When she saw the new little girl later that day, she was standing near the trees, watching Elwood Jr. in his swing.

When Beemer came in from the kitchen, she said, "Holden spoke to me today."

"No shit?" said Beemer. "I didn't figure him for the talking type. Need anything in town, Doc?"

"No, I'm leaving soon myself," she said.

"Be in tomorrow?"

"No, Tuesday."

"See you then."

The Little Girl:

He thinks he can fool me, but I know what he's up to. Sitting there in his swing, running things, making people do things without even *thinking* about it. He pretends to be so nice to me, but I know there's only room for one person in charge here, and it's not that dumb Willard or that pretend-nice Dr. Rance, she's like *all* the others, trying to get inside my head to see if the loud clock there is still working, or that Holden; I don't like the way he looks at me; I'll take care of *him* after I settle the Little Moron's hash. I know where they keep the matches here, and I know when they're all going to be eating, and I know what's in the basement. And later, it'll be just me, and that nice Leonard, and the rabbits and mice, and we'll have *ever so much* fun. . . .

Leonard:

Uh-oh. Now someone's really gonna get it!

It wasn't me, no sir. I was out by the rabbit hutch and then there was a roar like when a train used to come by real close when me and my friend was sleeping in the 'bo jungles and the whole house blew up and caught on fire and then I saw the little houses across the golfing place blow up and catch on fire and then I was running as fast as I could only I stopped and went back to get the rabbits out of their cages and then it started raining fire.

I ain't never seen it rain fire before. It came down just like water only things was turning brown and gray and going away.

And then it was real hard to breathe and real hot and I dropped the rabbits cause my hands hurt real bad and then the rabbits caught on fire too. I started crying only nothing came out. When I screamed I couldn't get my breath back in and I ran with my head down and my hair caught fire and the tin place on my head was hot as a stove. I was yelling and running and got one eye open and my clothes was on fire and I remembered you could roll, only the ground was on fire too but I yelled and rolled.

Then I was up and running again toward the wheat field and Holden was jumping up and down and biting his hand and looking at the house and screaming.

I looked back and the big clown head blew up and one of its eyes popped out and went past the fence. I looked again and saw the fence was down over to the other side of the house and Benjamin who always

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stood there looking was nowhere in sight.

I went running that way to get away from the fire. I wanted to get as far away as I could and jump into one of those water puddles they have by the sand-piles. I ran and ran.

Somebody was sure gonna get it but it wasn't me, no sir. I was out by the hutch. . . .

Then I remembered the rabbits and started crying.

Then I saw Benjamin lying way out in the middle of the golf place and I forgot about jumping in the water because I couldn't feel the burning any more.

He was laying there and he looked like a newspaper that's been in the fire-place. There was smoke coming out of his mouth.

I ain't ever seen smoke come out of anybody's mouth unless they had a cigarette.

I tried to let him know it was okay but I must have been yelling.

I didn't know what to do. I stood there crying and crying and I heard noises and whistles and sirens yelling from all around.

Benjamin looked at me with his blue eyes but I couldn't tell if he saw me or not.

If I'd of had a mouse I would have given it to him to hold; I sure would have.

Benjamin:

For the first time in his life he was neither confused nor caught in an eternal present. Since the explosion, things had slowed down, pulled, come apart into separate distinct moments. He had seen parts of the big house come by him and realized that they had not been there before, that this was a new thing to him.

He had been near the fence, watching the men play golf and calling his sister's name. He still had his sister's slipper in his back pocket. Before the blast he expected her to come anytime to the fence, especially with the men calling her name so often.

Then pieces of the house and something else came by and hit the men out there and the houses beyond the pasture. As he was lifted through the air he thought again the world was turning around like it did when the black boy fed him the whiskey at his grandmother's house.

He saw the ground hit him three or four times and every time he bumped things got more still and calm inside him.

Then he was looking up at the quiet

blue sky with some smoke going through it. Every time he breathed, more smoke came up. He watched it. Then he began to see that this, too, was a new thing. Before this, he had been at the fence; now he was somewhere else.

He saw that all the things he knew were different things, that his sister must have been gone many many many days. He saw that the big house which had come to pieces in fire was not his grandmother's house and that that was not the place he had been in before he came here. This was a wonderful thing.

That meant that all the people were different people. The black cook was not the one in the house here who was a man. The man here was not his brother though he had the same job. The car out front had not been the one of his other brother—it was shinier and lower and did not have a top on it where the people sat. The blue sky now had more smoke in it. It had not always had

"HE WAS LAYING
THERE AND HE LOOKED LIKE
A NEWSPAPER
THAT'S BEEN IN THE FIREPLACE. THERE
WAS SMOKE
COMING OUT OF HIS MOUTH."

smoke. Sometimes it was blue or gray; sometimes it rained and you could watch it from inside the houses.

Then he saw there were insides and outsides to houses, and that they were the same. That meant the outside had to be bigger than the inside to hold the people though they sometimes looked little when you had walked away from them and you had gotten bigger. That must mean it was you who made them little by being farther away from them.

He lay there calm. What else could all this mean? He found himself trying to think of one thing, and it came to him, what he was trying to think about. He tried something else, and it came to him, too. Not like in a flow, where one thing led to another like it used to do. . . .

He could not contain this new knowledge. He wanted to yell it, tell everyone. Not like in other days before the house came apart when he tried to say things and everyone said he was bel-lowing. He wanted the words to let everyone know that he had found these

new things.

He smiled with exultation. Now if only Leonard would quit pushing and prodding him and yelling. It was beginning to bother him.

He closed his eyes.

Seeker heard about the explosion on the radio. It took almost a day to get through, but he finally found a phone Winfred was at late the next morning.

"Only five of the guests are still alive," she said. "One of them's critical. They found what they're sure are Elwood Jr.'s and Beemer's bodies and the new little girl's. They suspect arson—the propane tanks."

"I was just going to call you yesterday morning, before it happened. For the first time, one of the guests was missing, but evidently had been since the night before, and we don't think he had anything to do with it.

"We've got people with the survivors," she went on. "Beemer's will's going to be read in two days. I'm sure he provided for everything for them through the trust. We'll do whatever the will says, no matter what, or how strange it sounds."

Then she began to cry. "Holden's the only one who saw it happen. The ones who lived through it, the ones inside eating lunch, probably didn't understand what happened at all."

"I wish I could tell you how sorry I am," said Seeker. He made arrangements to

come down for the reading of the will. He offered her the department's help in anything she might need.

"I'll see you day after tomorrow," he said.

"Thanks." She hung up.

He was doodling on his desk pad when he first noticed the honking of car horns outside the office. He went to his second floor window and looked out. Then he ran downstairs and out onto the street.

There was a slow-moving line of cars coming toward him. At the front of it, the Little King, looking neither left nor right, was coming up the street in his pedal car. People were yelling "stupid asshole!" out the windows of their cars and trucks. The Little King paid no attention and pulled to a stop in front of Dr. Seeker as the traffic roared around him.

He climbed out of the pedal car. He wore an orange-red robe trimmed in ermine, and on top of his head was a crown that looked like the top half of a

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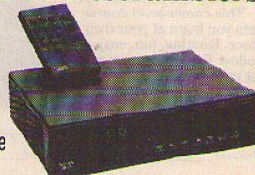
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gold-yellow ball-jack. His beard and mustache were clipped and curled.

He took off his crown. His head was bald and red, with only a fringe of hair where the crown sat. He handed Dr. Seeker a folded piece of paper that had been inside.

Seeker opened it.

At the top was a stick figure of a man with a briefcase in his left hand.

On the paper, in Elwood Jr.'s drawing, was the following: ?, then the Little Moron figure with XX's over the eyes, then a duck and a big + and a cow, and a test tube over a Bunsen burner. Seeker remembered what Beemer had said about literal levels.

How was the Little Moron killed in a eugenics experiment? it was asking.

Seeker took out his Parker T-Ball Jotter. He wrote an equals sign, then drew a giant firecracker with a sputtering fuse and a + and a road full of cars with speed lines coming from them, and an exclamation point.

How was the Little Moron killed in a eugenics experiment? it asked.

He was trying to cross a busy highway with a lit stick of dynamite! Seeker had answered.

He refolded the paper and handed it back to the Little King. The tiny old man replaced it in his crown, jumped back in his pedal car, made a U-turn and started back the way he had come, causing another giant screeching of brakes and cursing sounds. Seeker watched for a moment: a man who thought he was a king taking a joke back from a man who thought he was a doctor to a man who was dead. Then he went back inside, to call Winfred to tell her one of the guests had been found, but that he would probably be late for dinner. ☐

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COSMIC

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program, has long argued that Soviet officials remained publicly mum about widely reported Russian UFOs in the 1970s and 1980s because such reports masked military operations conducted at the supersecret Plesetsk Cosmodrome. "Could a similar scenario occur in this country? It's conceivable," concedes Oberg. "On the other hand, should our own government take an interest in UFO reports, especially those that may reflect missile or space technology from around the world? Sure, I'd be dismayed if we didn't. But does it follow that alien-acquired technology recovered at Roswell is driving our own space technology program? I don't see any outstanding evidence for it."

Friedman's counterargument is not so much a technological as a political one. "Governments and nations demand allegiance in order to survive," he says. "They don't want us thinking in global terms, as a citizen of a planet as opposed to a particular political entity, because that would threaten their very existence. The impact on our collective social, economic, and religious structures of admitting that we have been contacted by another intelligent life form would be enormous if not literally catastrophic to the political powers that be."

Whatever its reason for holding large numbers of documents and an array of information close to the vest, there's no doubt that the U.S. government has been less than forthcoming on the topic of UFOs. Historically, the government's public attitude toward UFOs has run the gamut of human emotions, at times confused and dismissive, at others deliberately covert and coy. On one hand, it claims to have recovered a flying disc; on the other, a weather balloon. One night UFOs constitute a threat to the national security; the next they are merely part of a public hysteria based on religious feelings, fear of technology, mass hypnosis, or whatever the prevailing psychology of the era will bear. To sort through the layers of confusion spawned by the government's stance and to reveal informational chasms, whatever their cause, *Omni* is launching a series of six continuing articles. In the following months, we will take the long view, scanning through history to examine UFOs under wraps in the decades following Roswell. In the next installment, look for our report on official efforts to squelch UFO mania and keep tabs on UFO researchers in the McCarthy-era landscape of the Fifties. ☐

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HANDBOOK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 38

Clifford Stone, a retired U.S. Army sergeant with an interest in UFOs, has been trying to get the military to admit that it runs these projects and that it also recovers downed UFOs. Stone claims that the 696th Intelligence Group at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, makes these retrievals, and he has even submitted an FOIA request for the group's UFO files.

Records from Roswell. The Roswell case, in which a UFO is said to have crashed near Roswell, New Mexico, in July 1947, continues to haunt researchers and to draw numerous FOIA requests. In one of these, Don Schmitt, a researcher from the Center for UFO Studies in Illinois and coauthor with Kevin Randle of the 1991 book *UFO Crash at Roswell*, has filed an FOIA request on behalf of the family of Mac Brazel, the rancher who found the purported UFO wreckage. "Specifically, we wanted to see the results of a medical examination allegedly given to Brazel by the United States Army after he made his discovery," Schmitt explains. "The Army denied that it had records on Brazel of any sort, even though Brazel served in the Army during WWII."

Secret Sins. Is there a secrecy oath signed by military personnel involved with UFOs? Many UFO investigators, including Don Schmitt, claim to have active-duty and retired military witnesses who will talk privately but not openly about UFOs and the government for fear of losing pensions. Schmitt awaits the results of an FOIA request submitted to the Army, Navy, and Air Force on whether or not an oath of secrecy actually exists.

X Marks the Spot. Another facet of the Roswell case concerns a United Press International (UPI) reporter who supposedly told Schmitt that in the early 1960s, a public-information officer (PIO) at Holloman Air Force Base showed him a map of the Roswell crash site and even drove him out to look at it. Schmitt's FOIA asks for the name of the PIO and seeks to learn whether he ever worked with a UPI reporter in the early Sixties.

Name, Rank, and Serial Number. Schmitt would also like to obtain the records of and ultimately locate 30 military personnel who allegedly worked at Roswell Air Force Base in 1947. He submitted an FOIA with their names and se-

rial numbers, asking for access to their complete records. The Air Force responded that it had no records on those individuals.

Operation Majestic. The MJ-12 documents—short for Operation Majestic—turned up in microfilm form in the mailbox of Jaime Shadara, a UFO investigator, back in 1984. Although most UFO researchers now believe the documents are phony, some say they may be evidence of a top-secret briefing given to president-elect Dwight Eisenhower in November 1952 by Admiral Roscoe Hillenkoetter, then-director of the CIA.

After spending considerable time and money trying to verify these documents, Stanton Friedman put in an FOIA request in 1989. He thought he could study the authenticity of the controversial MJ-12 documents by comparing them to other CIA briefings of Ike. Friedman learned the times and dates of these additional briefings in archival research and using that specific informa-

the Center for UFO Studies provides three useful tips:

- UFOlogists believe petitions may be screened for buzzwords like *UFO*, which tip officials off to give the request prejudicial treatment, so researchers try to be creative. "We never refer to Roswell by name," says Schmitt, "and in the last five years, I have not made an FOIA request in which I specifically referred to UFOs."

- Schmitt and other FOIA experts often request paragraphs, even sentences, not in classified documents just to see whether the agency has any information on the topic at all. The technique also confuses officials, preventing them from pigeonholing the request as UFO related, thus encouraging them to give it a higher priority and push it through.

- Hoping to stop the government in efforts to pull the wool over their eyes, UFO researchers often request documents they know for a fact exist. "We often try to trip them up," Schmitt explains. "We send in our request; they deny it. Then we send copies of specific documents that refer to the documents they claim they don't have."

SIDE-STEPPING THE FOIA
The frustrations of filing an FOIA being what they are, a number of UFO researchers have now evolved alternative strategies for prying documents from government vaults. A couple of the most prominent efforts are detailed below.

Moon Dust II. Cliff Stone's requests to the Air Force and Defense Intelligence Agency for projects Moon Dust and Blue Fly information were unsuccessful, so he's making similar requests through the office of Senator Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico who is working with the Pentagon's Congressional Liaison Office on this issue. Remember, you are part of a constituency; your representative can help.

Operation Right to Know. In 1992, Operation Right to Know was formed by three Mutual UFO Network members who felt political action was the only way to wrest secrets from the government. They passed out UFO literature on the ellipse behind the White House in 1992, picketed in front of the White House in 1993, and demonstrated outside the United Nations building in New York in November 1993. Operation Right to Know now has more than 200 members, is growing with European chapters, and will probably picket for access to government UFO information in a city near you. ☐

"IS THERE A SECRECY
OATH SIGNED BY MILITARY PERSONNEL
INVOLVED WITH UFOs?
RESEARCHERS SAY CLASSIFIED ARMY,
NAVY, AND AIR FORCE
DOCUMENTS MAY REVEAL THE TRUTH."

tion requested the documents from the CIA. Two years later, the CIA responded that it could not find any such briefing documents. Friedman appealed but was told he was number 390 on the list. He is still waiting for a response.

FOIA Wannabes. Fred Olsen III would like to submit an FOIA request to the Air Force that asks for the gun-camera photos of UFOs that former military pilots claim were taken during the 1940s and 1950s. Don Schmitt would like to submit an FOIA request to the Air Force on the contents and purpose of a mysterious military transport plane said to have departed from Roswell Air Force Base under tight security on July 9, 1947.

FOIA TIPS

For those sturdy souls who wish to buck the tide, it is sometimes possible to successfully wield the Freedom of Information Act to dredge up information buried deep. To help the uninitiated work the system and uncover as much as possible, FOIA pro Don Schmitt of